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Hague wins Tory leadership

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The Third Way's Mr. Compromise

The Magazine

The sun never sets on the beach

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Sources: Iran, Hizbullah plan to hit Israeli, US, Turkish targets

By STEVE RODAN

Iran has decided in coordination with Hizbullah to attack Israeli, Turkish, and US targets following Mohammed Khatami's election to the Iranian presidency, diplomatic sources said this week.

The sources said that on June 2, the Hizbullah Shura met in Beirut and decided in conjunction with its Iranian advisers to plan attacks against Israeli, Turkish, and US targets both in the Middle East and abroad. The Shura is said to be the forum where Hizbullah policies, particularly terrorist plans, are discussed.

Martin Kramer, director of Tel Aviv University's Dayan Center for Middle East Studies, said the reports could be sober-rattling by the Syrians and Iranians, upset by the new military-supported Turkish government of Tansu Ciller, which is due to replace the Islamic-oriented Necmettin Erbakan. Kramer said both Syria and Iran appear to be concerned by the rise of the pro-US Ciller to power and the victory of the Turkish military to help oust Erbakan.

"When both Syrians and Iranians want something together, there's nothing better than tweaking the noses of the Turks with Hizbullah."

US asks to see Peled over Arafat link to WTC bombing, Page 18

Kramer said, "It could be more noise than action on the idea of using Turkish soil for terrorist activities. The Turks play rough."

See IRAN, Page 12



Labor Party leader Ehud Barak (right) meets with Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo in Ramat Gan yesterday amid speculation that Milo would leave the Likud following the resignation of Dan Meridor as finance minister. Both men said the meeting had been arranged before the resignation. (Israel Sam)

Sharansky, Edelstein to boycott cabinet

By LIAT COLLINS, SARAH HONIG, and Kim

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky declared yesterday he would boycott today's cabinet meeting for the second week in a row, joined by Yisrael Ba'aliya colleague Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, in protest at the government's failure to honor its coalition agreement.

The move follows the failure of meetings between Yisrael Ba'aliya representatives and Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman to achieve progress on the issue. It also comes as the opposition is mobilizing in an attempt to bring down the Netanyahu government in three no-confidence motions to be heard next week.

At a Labor Party meeting yesterday, chairman Ehud Barak said the recent political developments following the resignation of

Dump Netanyahu calls come from new direction, Page 3

Finance Minister Dan Meridor require the party to make special preparations. However, Barak said he does not believe Tuesday's no-confidence motions will succeed in bringing down the government.

See SHARANSKY, Page 12

Israel wants France to broker Lebanon withdrawal

By ELDAD BECK

PARIS — Israel has asked France to help broker an agreement with Lebanon that would enable the IDF to leave the security zone, according to sources in the entourage of Defense Minister

Yitzhak Mordechai. Mordechai, who arrived here on Tuesday to attend the Paris Air Show, met yesterday with French Defense Minister Alain Richard.

See FRANCE, Page 12

PM: Coalition will thrive

By SARAH HONIG

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday dismissed all talk of his coalition disintegrating, saying it would survive and function well for its full four-year term.

He also promised to overhaul the economy and put it on the world map. Netanyahu said that "in three years you won't recognize this country, it will have changed so much — for the better."

Netanyahu was addressing members of the Likud secretariat, who gave him a warm reception, despite the fallout following the resignation of Finance Minister Dan Meridor.

Speaking about the coalition, Netanyahu said: "There are those who would like to bury it at every turn, but it will thrive and all of its component parties will remain within it."

"When it comes to basics, they are not at loggerheads with this government's policy and agree with our foreign affairs and defense line, as well as with what we are aiming to do in the socio-economic sphere."

"Inside the Likud, I find it hard to believe that our members will revert to the internecine factionalism of yesterday. They will remember how we shattered

into many splinters, and the upshot was that we lost to Labor, and we all know what disasters the leftist government brought upon this country during its tenure."

In reviewing the events which led up to Meridor's resignation, Netanyahu said that "when we came to power, we found an enormously dangerous overdrift. We had to quickly put the brakes on the economy."

"For the past few months, however, the finance minister, the governor of the Bank of Israel, and I have been holding secret meetings on how to encourage economic growth. We are, in fact, a month behind schedule due to certain affairs," Netanyahu said, presumably referring to the Bar-On Affair.

"A decision was a must and I had to make one. I was asked to bring the matter before the cabinet and I did so. Once the subject under discussion becomes known, there can be no waiting, because the deliberations themselves influence the markets," he explained.

Meridor "opposed part of my economic plan and he has a right to do so. If his resignation was motivated by professional conviction and principle, then I respect it. If his resignation, however, was for other reasons, then it is wholly unjustified."

Ministerial hopes for Ne'eman dim

By SARAH HONIG

The chances that former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman would return to the government seemed to dim last night, and it appeared likely that two new Likud ministers would be co-opted.

However, sources stressed that the final word on Ne'eman has still not been said. He returns from the US today and might express a wish to return to the cabinet. In that case, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will face the problem of where to put him.

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office, however, feel that National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon would be promoted to the Treasury, Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav would be promoted to National Infrastructure, MK

Michael Eitan would come in as science minister, and MK Sylvan Shalom would succeed Katsav. Thus Netanyahu would be able to satisfy two of his most loyal supporters, Eitan and Shalom.

Arabs await results of cabinet crisis, Page 2

Only MK Shaul Amor, who had also sought the Science portfolio, vacated in January by MK Ze'ev Begin, would be let down. Netanyahu's plan would also keep Tzahi Hanegbi in the Justice Ministry.

See NE'EMAN, Page 12

I.B. Singer's 'Nobility' gets a grave correction

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Nobel laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer is no longer "noble." Nearly six years after Singer's death, the inscription on his gravestone in a Paramus, New Jersey cemetery was corrected this week. The original stone, which was engraved in 1992, called the Yiddish writer a "noble" laureate. The New York Times reported, Singer won the 1978 Nobel Prize for literature.

Singer's friends and family apparently were divided about the error. Some thought the gravestone typo was an insult, while others found it amusing. "Isaac would have enjoyed the irony," said Eve Friedman, who with Singer wrote the play *Tebele and Her Demons*. "But there was something kind of sad about it. Isaac in that stone was the butt of a joke," she told the Times. The correction doesn't end the

misery about the grave. Israel Zamir, Singer's son from a marriage in Poland, has said that if the writer had been buried in Israel, the grave would have been the destination of pilgrimages. The New Jersey site, he wrote in his book *Journey to My Father*, is a "God-forsaken place [that] would attract no one."

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NEWS

in brief

Salameh given two life terms

The Erez Military Court yesterday sentenced terrorist Hassan Salameh to two life terms plus 15 years, after convicting him of 31 different charges, including the murder of a Palestinian who had cooperated with Israel and responsibility for the suicide bombing in Gush Katif in June 1995, in which a soldier was wounded.

In a separate action, hearings are continuing on his involvement in the suicide bus bombings in Jerusalem last year. *Itim*

Foreign Ministry gets new spokesman

Aviv Shiron, 44, former information counselor at the embassy in Bonn, has been appointed Foreign Ministry spokesman, replacing Danny Shek who will take up the post of consul-general in San Francisco. Before Germany, Shiron headed the ministry's public affairs department and served as the spokesman for various peace delegations in Madrid, Washington, Moscow and during the peace talks with Jordan.

Other appointments approved yesterday include: Arthur Avnon, from consul-general in Chicago to director of the ministry's Jordan department; Amikam Levy as head of manpower abroad; and Amir Ayalon, head of domestic manpower. *Jay Bushinsky*

Psychologists 'optimistic' about ending strike

The union of psychologists working for public institutions was "optimistic" yesterday about ending its strike after meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. A union spokesman said the prime minister first wants to name a new finance minister, and will then instruct him to reach a solution to the nearly month-long strike, which was launched to protest against low wages for Kupat Holim and state psychologists. However, the psychologists continue to maintain a protest vigil outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. *Judy Siegel*

High Court rejects Women in Green petition

The High Court of Justice yesterday rejected a petition by the Women in Green group against tomorrow's planned joint Israeli-Palestinian march in Jerusalem under the slogan "Jerusalem - Two Capitals for Two States."

Justices Shlomo Levin, Eliezer Goldberg, and Dalia Dornier said the Women in Green had not followed proper procedures, including not trying to meet with the march organizers before filing the petition. The march is to proceed from Damascus Gate to Sultan's Pool. *Itim*

Right-wing radicals arrested at Rabin grave

Seven right-wing extremists were arrested by police yesterday for alleged incitement while demonstrating near the grave of former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin on Mt. Herzl in Jerusalem. They had called for the "destruction" of Rabin's grave, saying he had been a commander of the unit which killed 16 people on the *Altalena* off the Tel Aviv beach in June 1948. *Itim*

Turkish sailor treated at Rambam

A sailor from one of the five Turkish Navy ships in Haifa Port for a rest and recreation visit underwent an emergency operation at Rambam Hospital last night. Deputy hospital director Dr. Zvi Ben-Ishai said the sailor had been admitted suffering from acute abdominal pains and it appeared that he was suffering from a bleeding ulcer. The Turkish ships - two frigates, a destroyer, a submarine, and a supply ship - are due to sail today. *David Rudge*

Paratroopers get new commander

The IDF appointed Col. Gershon Yitzhak commander of the Paratrooper Brigade in a ceremony attended by OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan and senior officers yesterday. Dayan praised Yitzhak for reaching "this yearned-for posting," and wished success to the outgoing commander, Col. Beni Gantz, who is to depart soon for study abroad. *Ariel O'Sullivan*

Fatah officials appear in Hebron

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and JON IMMANUEL

One border policeman was lightly injured and, according to Palestinian sources, three Palestinians were hurt in the sixth day of rioting in Hebron yesterday.

At one of the checkpoints between H-1 and H-2, two plainclothed Fatah officials appeared - for the first time since the riots started - and told children protesters to go home.

As throughout the week, the rioting took place in Shalala Street and the surrounding side-roads that divide H1, the Palestinian-controlled area of Hebron, and H2, the area under Israeli control.

The IDF Spokesman said troops dispersed the rioters with tear gas and rubber bullets. Clashes broke out mid-morning and continued throughout the day. Some of the Palestinian rioters wore keffiyehs to hide their faces, responding to rumors that the IDF was videotaping the clashes in order to identify the key perpetrators.

Palestinian sources claimed 10 firebombs were thrown at IDF soldiers and border policemen. The IDF Spokesman confirmed that firebombs and stones were thrown at the troops, but would not say how many.

At a meeting between General Security Service heads and Palestinian Preventive Security and Fatah chief Jibril Rajoub in Hebron on Tuesday, the PA was told that continued stone-throwing would not be tolerated.



A border policeman in Hebron aims past Palestinian women at youths throwing stones at his position yesterday. (Reuters)

BACKGROUND

Arabs await results of cabinet crisis

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The domestic cabinet crisis has thrown a further crimp into the Middle East peace process, prompting Palestinian, Egyptian, and Syrian policy makers to ride out the storm and see whether they will still have to deal with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Senior officials in Jerusalem admit that the crisis is having an impact on efforts to reactivate the peace process.

Arab political analysts keep very close tabs on Israel's party politics, and the news media throughout the Arab world have made the principal players into household names.

Reverberations of the drama that led to Dan Meridor's resignation as finance minister reached Jerusalem from neighboring capitals and caused Israeli officials to suspect that the Arab assessments may have leaned too heavily on foreign press reports dated here.

"They have been taking the BBC too seriously," a highly-placed aide to Netanyahu said, contending that its broadcasts foreshadowed the imminent collapse of the incumbent coalition and raised the possibility of an alternative leadership taking office.

See ARABS Page 14

Mubarak: Egypt will maintain peace effort

By ELAD BECK

PARIS - Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said here yesterday that his country will maintain its mediation efforts between Israel and the Palestinians until both sides resume talks on a peace settlement.

"We are talking with the Israelis and with the Palestinians about possible solutions in many domains. The meetings are going on and we hope to reach a middle-point between both sides, so that they will be able to resume on a solution," Mubarak told journalists after a meeting with French President Jacques Chirac. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu phoned Mubarak ear-



Hosni Mubarak (Efraim Kilabek)

lier in the day. The Egyptian president arrived yesterday in the French capital for

a short, unofficial visit. Chirac said the importance of the meeting was that it took place hours before the opening of the G-7 summit in Denver. French officials said Mubarak had asked the European Union via France to back the Egyptian initiative.

"We both regret the current situation... and all the dangers that such a situation might cause to the stability in the region," Chirac said after the meeting.

Chirac informed Mubarak about the appeal issued by the EU at the end of its Amsterdam summit this week for a quick resumption of peace talks.

See MUBARAK Page 12

Settlers rap PA road remarks

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Members of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza were outraged at remarks attributed to council chairman Pinhas Wallerstein during a tour with members of the Labor Party in the West Bank yesterday.

Radio reports quoted Wallerstein as suggesting that the Palestinian Authority should be allowed territorial continuity in the autonomous areas, and that the roads in these areas be designated under complete

Palestinian control.

Yechiel Leiter, head of the council's foreign desk, said last night he found it difficult to believe that Wallerstein made the remarks attributed to him.

"If he did, then it is an impudent thing to say. The suggestion that Palestinian Arabs should enjoy territorial continuity runs counter to everything that the Yesha [Judea, Samaria and Gaza] council believes," he said. "Nothing can be more detrimental to the cause of Jews living in Yesha than the suggestion of any type of Palestinian continuity," he added.

According to council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar, Wallerstein said he had been misquoted and his remarks taken out of context. When asked by members of the delegation to comment on territorial continuity for the Palestinians, Wallerstein stressed the solution was not in connecting Judea and Samaria. Instead, she said, he suggested a linkage of roads between the existing Palestinian villages, adding that they should be under Palestinian control.

Jezzine residents protest Hizbullah bomb attacks

By DAVID RUDGE

Residents of the South Lebanese Army-controlled Jezzine enclave staged a mass demonstration in the Christian town yesterday to protest three bombings there the previous day. Four people were killed, including an SLA officer, and two wounded in the attacks.

Meanwhile, Lebanese newspapers reported yesterday that IDF and SLA troops had conducted house-to-house searches in At-Tiri in the western sector of the security zone, in an apparent attempt to track down Hizbullah collaborators who may have assisted in the planting of the huge roadside bomb which exploded alongside a Merkava tank on Sunday night.

Staff Sgt. Ya'acov Algami, 20, of Jerusalem, was killed in that attack and three soldiers lightly wounded. Originally, IDF officers said that the blast had jammed the rear door and turret of the tank which had led to the two-hour delay in extricating the casualties.

The inquiry by OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine, however, found that the soldiers had been instructed to remain inside the tank for fear there might have been other bombs in the area. It was originally reported that the wounded soldiers all suffered light injuries, thus it was decided it would be better to move the tank before getting them out.

Concern over the possibility of further explosive devices in the area was also why the rescue unit and reinforcements did not immediately approach the tank when they arrived, leading to a delay of 40 minutes in extricating the casualties.

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawings, the winning cards were the ace of spades, queen of hearts, 10 of diamonds, and 10 of clubs, and the king of spades, 7 of hearts, 7 of diamonds, and king of clubs.

In yesterday's Payis Hazak draw, ticket number 691652 won the NIS 1 million prize, while ticket number 054639 won a car. Tickets 899535, 793128, 405298, 391939, 521489, 191058, 145363, and 141060 won NIS 5,000.

Tickets ending in 35649, 62894, 96699, 42900, 72519, 94982, 85958, 41700, 32073, 40989, 54425, 98826, 18171, 31553, 04360, 63074, 69092, 96990, and 63493 won NIS 1,000.

Tickets ending in 635, 233, 675, and 218 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 36 and 37 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 0 and 7 won NIS 10.

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مكاتب العمل

IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

Dump Netanyahu calls come from a new direction

"The Likud yes, Netanyahu no," Likud MK David Re'em said over the airwaves yesterday, giving a push to a move to find another candidate to challenge Netanyahu for the Likud leadership.

With this statement, Re'em, a freshman MK from Kiryat Ata, was joining the Likud's elder statesmen, former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, who said Wednesday that he has a candidate in mind whom he would like to see challenge Netanyahu. He named no names.

Truth be told, Netanyahu has heard many such threats in the past. These threats began last year in settlement circles unhappy with Netanyahu's settlement policies, and spread to certain groups within the Likud afraid of what they said were the prime minister's strong-arm tactics to gain complete control of the party.

The difference between the idea being furthered now by Shamir and Re'em, and the threat to look for a different candidate heard from people like National Religious Party MK Nissim Sloniensky and Gesher's Michael Kleiner of the Land of Israel Front, is that while the latter group was using this threat as a way to get Netanyahu to change his diplomatic policies, the former group is raising the idea because they are afraid of what the prime minister is doing to their party.

When Sloniensky broached an alternative candidate from the Right last year, after Netanyahu made it clear he was willing to redeploy in Hebron, he said it was

a way to pressure Netanyahu into changing his policies. The idea was that only with a threat from the Right would Netanyahu veer his



David Re'em

own policies in that direction.

What Re'em has in mind is changing the leadership because of fundamental problems with Netanyahu's style of governance.

"Today it is Dan Meridor," he said, "Tomorrow Yitzhak Mordechai, the day after, Limor Livnat. This will not end. I supported the Likud in the elections as a group, a movement. I didn't know that I was getting a man who would forget his voters, the people who elected him. He got onto a bus full of good soldiers, and drives them wherever he wants."

While the Meridor resignation has Re'em wanting to change the leadership now, Sloniensky said that

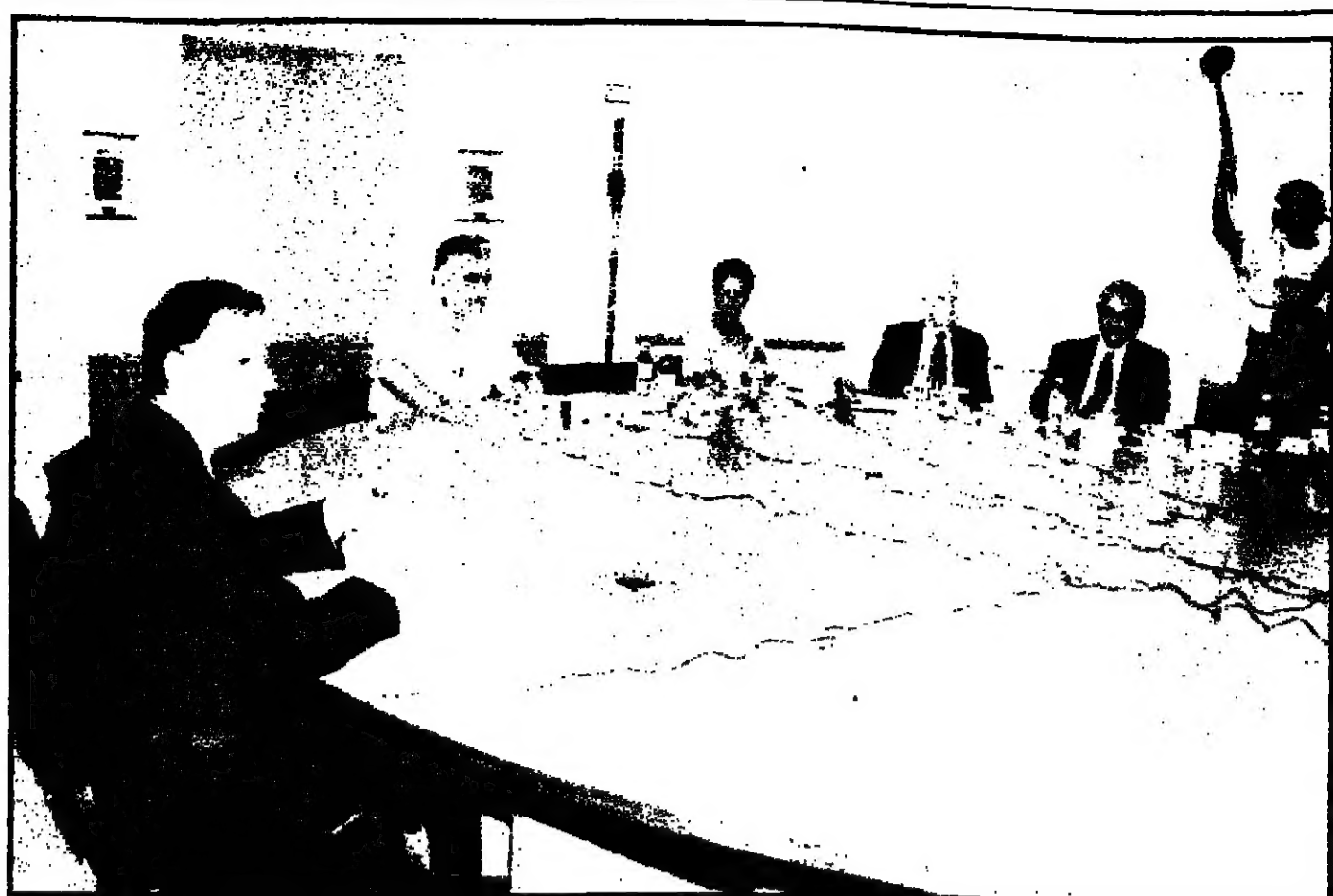
"from my point of view he [Netanyahu] is okay right now. The negotiations with the Palestinians are frozen, Netanyahu said he wants to forgo the interim agreement and go right to the final status, and building is continuing in Har Homa."

This illustrates the main problem Netanyahu's detractors will have trying to find a challenger: discovering any common ground between them, besides their dislike of, or disappointment with, the prime minister. For instance, Sloniensky said that "if Moshe Arens is Shamir's favorite candidate, I prefer Bibi."

Hagi Ben-Artzi, Netanyahu's brother-in-law, is another person who has been involved in trying to find a suitable candidate to challenge Netanyahu. But these efforts, he said, are concentrated on finding a religious figure who would be acceptable to both the National Religious Camp and the haredim. He, too, would not name names.

Ben-Artzi, instrumental in the previous elections in getting the religious community to back Netanyahu, also said he envisions a Yitzhak Mordechai-Dan Meridor alliance forming in the Likud.

"They complement each other well," he said. "Meridor has little security experience, which Mordechai has, while Mordechai has little political and legal experience, which Meridor has."



Hanegbi gives pointers on appointments

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi (left) appears yesterday before the committee on appointing attorneys-general, headed by former Supreme Court president Moshe Shamgar (seated, third from right). Hanegbi suggested that when the post needs to be filled, a five-person committee should be appointed to review candidates. The committee would then recommend a candidate to the cabinet, which can accept or reject him or her. If the committee's recommendation is rejected, it can make another recommendation, or dissolve itself, and a new committee would be formed.

(Isaac Harari)

Ministry seeks to avoid diplomatic row over illegal foreign workers

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The Foreign Ministry is trying to avoid diplomatic contretemps with countries whose nationals have entered Israel illegally as day laborers by coordinating their expulsion and assuring decent working conditions for those who bear valid visas, a senior official said.

Of the estimated 300,000 foreign workers in Israel, more than two-thirds lack valid visas or work permits, according to the latest official tally.

The Central Bureau of Statistics reported a 20 percent increase in

the number of foreign workers legally here last year compared to 1995 - from 69,000 to 89,000.

Although the government ordered the expulsion of at least 500 illegal entrants per month, this policy has not been implemented, a source said.

More than 60% of the foreign workers whose presence and employment in Israel is legal came from Romania. However, Foreign Ministry officials noted that there was no discussion of a quota system or other aspects of bilateral supervision during Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Severin's meeting earlier this week with counterpart David Levy.

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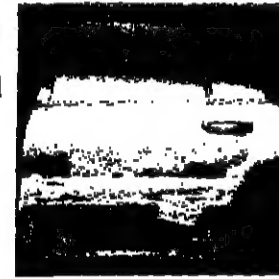
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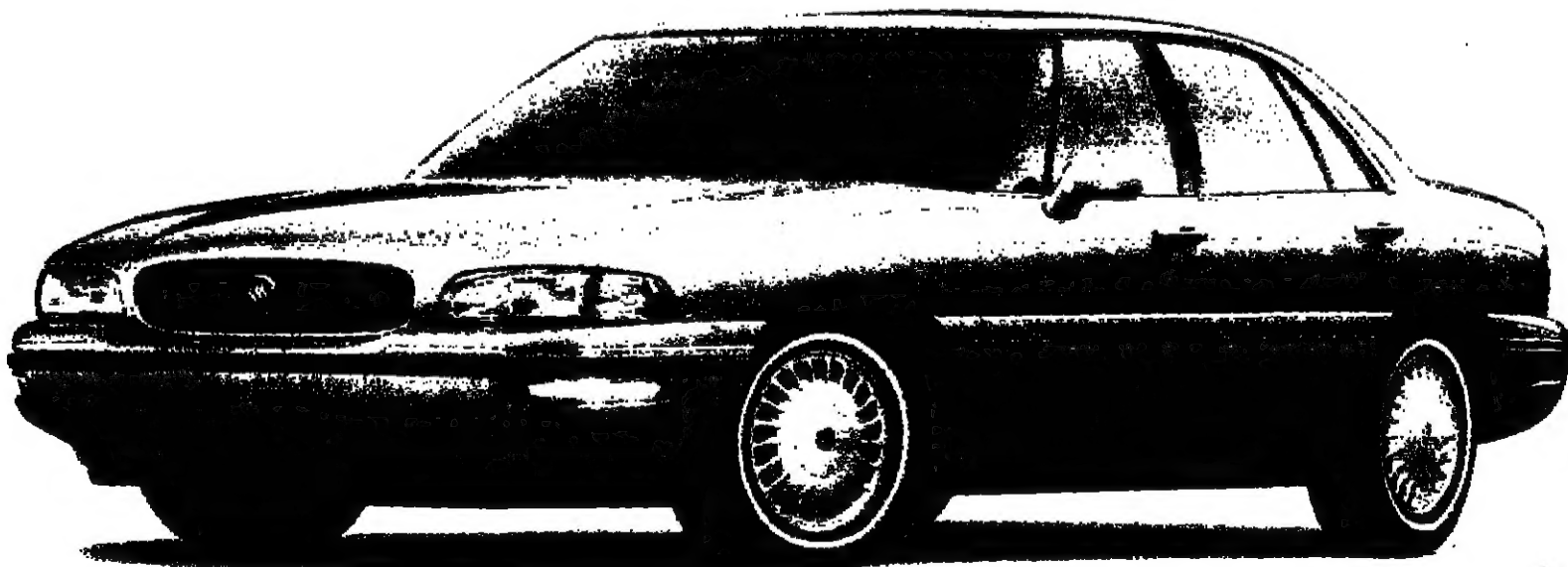
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The path to self-destruction

In the old swashbuckler movies, the hero would always face off against at least two foes at a time, and best both of them at once. It is hard to remember, however, a scene such as occurred this week, in which the master swordsman suddenly breaks off from the battle and pokes someone on the sidelines to bring them into the fight.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu already faced an increasingly flammable stalemate with the Palestinians and a budding coalition crisis with Yisrael Ba'Aliya, when he decided that now was the time to oust Finance Minister Dan Meridor. There are words such as "putsch" and "coup" to describe clever maneuvers by underlings to remove the man at the top; a word should be invented to describe the same act from the top down — against a minister whose threat consists of a reputation for honesty and diligence.

The claims of Netanyahu — and the solid majority of his cabinet that joined him — that the late-night vote on an arcane aspect of exchange rate policy was about a substantive issue, and not a ploy to remove Meridor, ring hollow. Meridor's main argument against the step to be taken was the risk of increased unemployment if the shekel were allowed to strengthen. Yet Foreign Minister David Levy, who normally would leap at the opportunity to pontificate on the employment issue, voted as if he were Milton Friedman.

The fact that seven ministers voted with Netanyahu, most probably with the knowledge that it meant the departure of Meridor, distributes the stain of this episode across the government, but does not absolve Netanyahu of responsibility. Nor does the fact that Meridor was thought to have wanted out of the government, and therefore was susceptible to a relatively small push, lessen the brazenness of the maneuver.

It is not uncommon for policy decisions to be tinged with unrelated and sometimes illegitimate political considerations. This was not, however, a matter of political influence on an economic decision; this was pure political score-settling dressed up as a matter of high policy.

At the very moment that he was under pressure from Sharansky to make decisions in a more serious and responsible way, Netanyahu pushed for a change in Israel's exchange-rate mechanism in a manner that seemed more tailored to removing the finance minister than to forging sensible economic policies.

Now that Netanyahu has driven out Meridor, whose failure to rally round the flag in the Bar-On Affair was the final straw for Netanyahu, he will have to contend with Sharansky, whose demands for reforms will no doubt escalate. In addition to addressing what he says is a string of unfulfilled commitments from the coalition agreement, Sharansky is demanding that the premier accept the recommendations of the committee on government procedures chaired

by himself and Meridor.

After the cabinet initially balked at appointing some ministers to pre-scrub appointments before they go to the full cabinet, Netanyahu has agreed to bring to a vote Sharansky's revised appointment-review process.

The new process would add a layer of review by a high-level professional committee for a number of nominations that must be approved by the cabinet. This review would help ensure that nominations meet minimal professional and ethical standards. This would not, of course, guarantee excellence, nor absolve ministers of the final responsibility for the appointments, but would presumably weed out substandard or suspect nominations, such as that of Roni Bar-On for attorney-general.

The second portion of the Sharansky-Meridor recommendations, concerning decision-making procedures, is meeting greater resistance. Building on dozens of unimplemented recommendations from past commissions, the committee called for strategic discussions on key matters, a detailed revamping of the budget process, the designation of issues that demand regular follow-up, and the delegation of minor decisions to other forums to conserve precious cabinet time. In addition, numerous by-laws now ignored would be adhered to, such as having the cabinet briefed on every issue at least 48 hours before having to vote.

It was only two months ago, immediately after the release of the Rubinstein/Arbel report on the Bar-On Affair, that a combative, albeit somewhat chastened Netanyahu pledged on television that he had learned lessons and would make changes. Now that the High Court petitions on the matter have been rejected and he is legally free and clear, it seems that Netanyahu's ardor for self-improvement has largely dissipated.

Even if Netanyahu feels compelled to accept the Sharansky-Meridor prescriptions for reform, the real question is whether anything really will change. It is rare that mechanical or legal patches can effectively fill gaps in character or judgment. No set of procedures can protect against a prime minister who does not accept their spirit, and attempts to circumvent them at every turn.

Sharansky's proposals are essentially a last-ditch effort by a minister who is as frustrated as former science minister Ze'ev Begin and Meridor were with the way the government conducts itself. The difference this time is that, if Sharansky leaves, the government falls.

If Netanyahu does not listen and learn this time, the government will self-destruct, if not now, then a few avoidable crises later. Sharansky's recommendations should thus not be regarded as a threat, but the way to save the government from its chronic lurching from crisis to crisis, and an opportunity to finally move forward on the nation's overburdened agenda.

MEIR RONEN



Duty to 'privatize the peace'

BENNY GAON

As a native Jerusalemite forced to celebrate his bar mitzva during the War of Independence, you can only imagine how much progress I felt we had made in our ongoing quest for peace when I flew from Amman to Petra in King Hussein's private helicopter.

I was part of Prime Minister Netanyahu's first official visit to Jordan, and a paramount purpose of our trip was to explore tangible commercial opportunities between Israel and Jordan.

That was nearly a year ago, and I believe that this is an appropriate time to reflect upon what has transpired in the interim.

Readers of this paper have been treated to a broad spectrum of commentary — from left to right — concerning how our country ought to face its many challenges. The Netanyahu administration has been subject to plentiful doses of criticism and praise.

However, if there is one fixed star in this constellation of opinions, it is that ours is a nation hungry for peace.

That hunger was fostered during years of starvation; and when finally visited to the peace table, we ate ravenously.

We signed treaties with Jordan and the Palestinian Authority. Business delegations began visiting on a massive scale, seeking technology-sharing arrangements and other joint-venture partnerships. Fueled by unprecedented optimism, our economy roared ahead. Consumer spending reached new heights.

Some may argue that the accelerated pace led to a national state

of indigestion. I disagree.

In my view, the economic benefits of the peace process are irrefutable. The statistics speak for themselves.

In the 1990s, Israel's GDP increased by over a third. The number of nations with which we share diplomatic relations nearly doubled. Foreign investment in Israel rose from less than \$400 million in 1992 to \$2.4 billion last year.

Israeli enterprises found themselves on corporate radar screens

too precious to be squandered.

THE present administration, led by the prime minister, stressed that overriding theme during this week's Caesarea Economic Conference.

The government's initiatives, particularly regarding macroeconomic and fiscal discipline, have been admirable. These measures are needed to contain inflation and sustain responsible growth over a protracted period of time. The market welcomed these

More than just a political or commercial objective, the peace process demands our collective national commitment

from which they had been absent in the past. Israeli products were able to penetrate new markets which had previously been inhospitable, or completely closed to them.

In total, the direct contribution of the peace process to the national economy has been estimated at about 2 percent a year, or over \$10 billion since the Gulf War.

However, these numbers tell only part of the story.

The peace process also enabled a redistribution of resources from defense to infrastructure, transportation, telecommunications and education. The felicitous impact on our national well-being over the longer term is therefore inestimably greater.

Against this background, it is clear that the benefits of peace are

developments. Investors feel that our government has begun to articulate — and deliver upon — its own corporate strategy. Several objectives, including privatization targets, have been declared and achieved.

Over 75 percent of the NIS 4 billion expected by the government in privatization proceeds in 1997 is already accounted for. The stock market, paced by the return of the international funds and renewed local confidence, has performed extremely well.

Nevertheless, as laudable as these measures are, they cannot be divorced from the parallel economic imperative of accelerating the peace process. A host of countries, including several in the region (Oman, Qatar, Morocco,

Tunisia and Egypt), continue to place Israel on hold, and commercial opportunities have been stifled by lingering political uncertainty.

As president and CEO of Israel's largest industrial enterprise, I have long felt that the business community has a duty to "privatize the peace." That was the purpose of my visit with the prime minister and many subsequent visits to Jordan.

In the meantime, to foster industrial opportunities in Jordan, Koor has been a partner in a dairy, a retail mall, a minibus assembly plant, a battery manufacturing facility, an agrochemical formulation and distribution plant, and an investment fund with the Jordanian government.

I expect that similar undertakings will soon be possible in Egypt and, eventually, with our other neighbors in the region as well.

Nevertheless, the peace process is not just a political objective or a commercial objective. It is an existential objective that demands our collective national energies and commitment.

Neither the government nor the business community — nor anyone else, for that matter — can serve as the exclusive cynosure to guide this process. We must continue to work together diligently and without distraction to achieve lasting peace.

We have already tasted the first fruit, yet there is an entire orchard that needs to be cultivated.

The writer is president and CEO of Koor.

Good guys vs. crooks in government

YOSEF GOELL

In politics, as in many other walks of life, crooked operators nearly always win out over the relatively honest in the short run. Neither cynics nor naifs can say for certain, however, whether the same is true in the long run.

In this week's dramatic showdown between the prime minister and his eminence grise, Avigdor Lieberman, on the one hand, and Finance Minister Dan Meridor on the other, ending in Meridor's resignation, there is not the slightest doubt over who belongs to which category.

The results of a quickie Channel 1 poll on Wednesday night found that 45 percent of those polled said they believed Meridor's version of what had brought on his resignation, as opposed to only 19 percent who believed Netanyahu's diametrically opposed version.

Netanyahu asserted that he had not plotted to push Meridor out of his government, but said Meridor had left him no choice but to seek a showdown in the cabinet, after "he refused to budge even a millimeter toward a compromise with the governor of the Bank of Israel [on the shekel exchange rate band issue]."

Meridor claimed that at the night-long session between the three at the Caesarea Economic Conference on Tuesday, he had, in effect, worked out a compromise with Governor Jacob Frenkel, but that Netanyahu, after first agreeing, had torpedoed it.

In such a situation, outside observers who were not privy to that meeting have to fall back on the reputations of the two protagonists.

Meridor is the Likud's "Mr. Clean." He has, over the years, braved the wrath of his party col-

leagues and undermined his own political prospects by refusing to buckle under in the face of demands that Likud governments pack the government bureaucracy with party appointees.

He was also openly critical of Netanyahu's performance in the Bar-On Affair.

Netanyahu, for his part, has spent his first year in office trying to wriggle out of jams he himself

leadership of the Likud from the party's "princes" in 1993.

Why, then, did Netanyahu include Meridor in his cabinet and in such a senior position as finance minister, to boot?

The fact is that Netanyahu preferred Frenkel, but flinched at the prospect of opposition from inside the Likud if he excluded Meridor from a senior position in his cabinet. He also needed Meridor's rep-

Both Meridor and Netanyahu were looking for a pretext to bring about the showdown between them

has created by his penchant for talking out of both sides of his mouth, an anatomical feat ordinary people call lying.

He has lied to presidents Clinton and Mubarak, to his own ministers and coalition partners, to his own party and to the public — not to mention the police interrogators who grilled him over the Bar-On Affair.

Yet much of this is beside the point. It is clear that both Meridor and Netanyahu were looking for a pretext to bring about the showdown between them.

They finally found it in the incredibly arcane issue of the tilt and breadth of the diagonal band that governs the exchange rate of the shekel against a basket of foreign currencies.

THAT Meridor and Netanyahu cannot stand each other has been clear since Netanyahu wrested the

utation for political honesty as a fig leaf to cover what has proven to be one of the most politically tuggish governments in the country's history.

Netanyahu's interpretation of this week's High Court ruling — that Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein's decision not to prosecute him in connection with the Bar-On Affair had not been "extremely unreasonable" — led him to believe he could now shed that itchy fig leaf.

Why didn't Meridor resign when the attorney-general issued his scathing report on Netanyahu's role in the affair in April; when Netanyahu clearly double-crossed him in opposing the Brodet Report on the capital market, or after Netanyahu worked out a deal behind Meridor's back on the budget?

The best answer is that it took Likud loyalist Meridor time and an accumulation of slaps on the

face from Netanyahu to screw up his courage to quit.

It should also be recalled that taking steps to bring down Netanyahu in April, in the wake of the Bar-On Affair, would have run the risk of bringing Labor's Shimon Peres back as prime minister.

Netanyahu's one and only achievement in the past year has been to prevent Peres from continuing as premier, with all we now know about what that would have meant regarding far-reaching concessions to the Syrians and Palestinians.

But super-dove Peres is now out of the way, and the problem of voting against Netanyahu and bringing him down is thus less traumatic for Likud stalwarts like Meridor, Ze'ev Begin, Yitzhak Shamir and Moshe Arens.

Meridor is now saying that he will not vote for Netanyahu if he is the Likud's candidate next time around. Shamir echoes that sentiment, and Arens is only a little more circumspect regarding his opposition to Netanyahu.

Together with Begin, who quit Netanyahu's government several months ago, they form a formidable opposition within the Likud.

Netanyahu controls the Likud machinery sufficiently to overcome such opposition. But guaranteeing the continued support of coalition partners Yisrael Ba'Aliya and the Third Way, whose constituencies are much more sensitive to the theme of good guys vs. crooks in government, is a very different matter. They might well bring on early elections.

The writer comments on public affairs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

KILL SPEED

Sir, — I refer to Peter Kingston's letter of May 28, regarding speeding and what he calls "accidents," a euphemism for road deaths and injuries.

Mr. Kingston's conclusions on speeding are out of date by at least five to six years and he is apparently not aware of the recent successful speed-control projects in England based on the slogan, "Speed kills — kill speed."

Recent technology has solved the problem of excessive film costs — digital traffic cameras store up to

25,000 frames on a single digital cassette, a storage cost of 1,000 photographs per shekel. These technologies have been able to pay their way through income from traffic fines and savings in road-crash costs.

During the 1996 five-month speed-enforcement project in Netanya, the overall casualty rates dropped by 50 percent compared with 10 comparison towns, and speeds dropped by up to 20 percent along the two high-risk roads — Ben-Gurion and Ben-Zvi Boulevards. Killed and injured

along these two roads dropped from 15 to 1995 to 0 in 1996, in the period of the project, a 100 percent drop following speed reduction.

It seems that the real world link between traffic speeds and deaths is not in accord with Mr. Kingston's preconceptions. He would be advised to reread the Newtonian Laws of Motion and the kinetic energy-speed formula he learned in high school.

GERRY BEN-DAVID,
Center for Driver Research
Jerusalem.

ANOTHER RELIGION

Sir, — Your editorial of June 13 placed too much emphasis on the violence of the haredi community against their Reform and Conservative brethren at the Wall on Shavuot. While one can not condone violence against anyone, particularly fellow Jews, it is important to remember that there is an essential ideological difference that must be brought to bear.

Orthodoxy has always been opposed to any change in the fundamental beliefs of Judaism. All the tampering done by Reform over the years can only be compared to how Christianity evolved from Judaism some 1,500 years ago.

Therefore it is quite understandable that Orthodoxy has, and will always, distance itself from any reforming movements, so as to ensure a continuity of authentic Judaism.

By sitting on the same religious councils, it implies that Reform is an acceptable part of Judaism. At this time, Orthodoxy must look out and welcome all Jews, but at the same time must stay away from these seemingly Jewish movements, which are no more than another religion.

Jerusalem.

SAM MEYER

SKEPTICAL PUBLIC

Sir, — Mr. Hussein's seductive vision of the future ("Our city, June 6) reads like a travel brochure: "A Palestinian state living peacefully with its neighbors." It is, he says, "very imaginative and creative." But is it sufficiently connected to reality? How to reconcile it with the PA-instigated murder of Arabs who sell land to Jews, the internal use of torture and repression, the tactic of threats and terrorism against the Israeli people, the propagandistic use of official lies, the refusal to carry out basic obligations such as the amendment of the PLO charter? How to reconcile the facts with Mr. Hussein's claim that the Palestinians are ready for his-

torical compromise?

I do not doubt Mr. Hussein's sincerity. He is to be commended for writing this type of article, which moves beyond the tortured logic of Israeli left-wing extremism and reaches out to a skeptical Jewish-Israeli public. However, after a near century of failed attempts to eliminate the Jewish presence in the land of Israel by violence, that skeptical public will have to be convinced that the rhetoric of compromise is more than a tactic of last resort. To be effective, the rhetoric will have to be backed up by facts on the ground.

JONATHAN ROGAWSKI
Efrat.

MICKEY MOUSE

Sir, — If it were not so tragic, it would be funny. The idea of creating an attraction along the EPCOT model for the "Jewish experience" at Heichal Shlomo, at a cost of some \$20 million (June 3), is ludicrous and bizarre. This country would benefit by not trying to make Judaism a Disney theme.

Transforming a white elephant building into a tourist attraction isn't necessary, since Israel itself exemplifies the living day-to-day Jewish experience and we certain-

ly don't need a multimedia extravaganza to illustrate it. What's better than going to the city of Jerusalem and visiting Yad Vashem, the Wall, the Knesset, the museums, the Haas Promenade, etc.?

The use of Heichal Shlomo to create a self-contained, imaginary miniature version of our beautiful reality is misguided, and a real Mickey Mouse of an idea.

A.J. WEISS
Tel Aviv.

מכאן תחיל

The friendly majority

MOSHE ZAK

Meridor's resignation from the Finance Ministry has been the big story this week. But we should not allow it to overshadow an important display of American friendship for Israel.

It came on June 10, wrapped up in the vote by 406 members of the House of Representatives for a resolution that calls upon the president and the secretary of state "to affirm publicly, as a matter of US policy, that Jerusalem must remain the undivided capital of the State of Israel." (Only 17 members of the house were opposed.)

As a consequence of the vote, one might have expected the Knesset to issue some public expression of gratitude. But it was too occupied with other affairs.

The House of Representatives vote is a barometer of US support for Israel beyond the question just of Jerusalem's future. Three weeks earlier, incidentally, the Senate passed an identical resolution.

Yasser Arafat seems to be more on the ball than we are. The Palestinian Authority chairman grasped the significance of the vote better than the many Israeli politicians who repeatedly sound dire warnings of our imminent abandonment by the US.

And Arafat - who has relied too much on our media, which for months has prophesied a deterioration in America's stance regarding Israel - was furious. He vented his rage noisily in Hebron's casbah.

An ironic and sobering observation: Last week's Washington majority - 96 percent - in favor of a resolution declaring united Jerusalem the sole capital of Israel is proportionally larger than the same proposal would elicit in the Knesset. It makes one think.

Arafat has been spoiled over the last few months by the succession of anti-Israel resolutions on Jerusalem in various international forums.

The US broke the sequence somewhat by twice vetoing anti-Israel decisions in the UN Security

Council - but each time it added its own reservations on Israel's activities in Jerusalem.

Congress's decision last week not only erases those anti-Israel resolutions; it also evinces unambiguous support of Israel's position on Jerusalem.

Arafat's rage is understandable. The only conclusion left to him is that his vision of fomenting a rift between the US and Israel is an idle dream.

TRUE, administration officials take pains to stress to the Palestinians that it is the president

The whole world's against us? Don't you believe it!

who lays down policy and not Congress, and that is no more than the truth; but the administration will not be able to ignore Congress's unambiguously-stated position on Jerusalem.

Now it will have to do everything it can to prevent a head-on clash with Israel. "The US should never provoke confrontation with Israel," Gen. Brent Scowcroft, president George Bush's national security adviser, wrote recently, suggesting an alternative means of pressuring Israel.

Last week's resolution aside, the House of Representatives has made amendments to the State Department Appropriations Law in line with giving practical support to Jerusalem as Israel's capital; and Congress has allocated \$100 million over two years for a US embassy in Jerusalem.

Even more important, it has taken legal steps to render the American Consulate in Jerusalem subordinate to the US Embassy. Implementing these steps would do away with the current anomaly whereby the consul-general in Jerusalem represents the US to the Palestinian Authority in Gaza,

while the ambassador in Tel Aviv is accredited to Israel's government in Jerusalem.

The administration will do its utmost to delete those paragraphs detailing the practical measures recommended by Congress. But it cannot disregard the spirit in which they were made.

Our government, in neglecting the consulate issue, implied that it was of little significance; it therefore fell to 406 congressmen to take the matter into their hands.

There are those who will try to dampen any enthusiasm for last week's friendly vote. But we must not allow them to sow panic by citing the UN General Assembly's anti-Israel votes on Har Homa, or other condemnations of Israel by other international bodies.

The weight of the Congress vote is incomparably greater than any UN Assembly decision could be.

In its resolution, the House of Representatives praises the Israeli administration in Jerusalem over the 30 years since the city's unification. It says: "The Congress strongly believes that Jerusalem must remain an undivided city in which the rights of every ethnic and religious group are protected, as they have been by Israel during the past 30 years."

So it isn't true that the whole world is against us. That friendly majority on Washington's Capitol Hill is stronger than the knee-jerk majority in New York's UN building, which can always be relied upon to support any proposal condemning Israel.

Arafat's throwing stones in Hebron won't alter American public opinion. Congress in effect said as much last week.

The sooner the PA leader shakes off the intoxication induced by those other votes against Israel and rid himself of the illusion that he can isolate us, the sooner he is ready for compromise, the better his chances of profiting from the negotiations will be.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.



From Ayyash to McVeigh

STEPHEN M. FLATOW

The debate will now begin over whether Timothy McVeigh truly deserves to die for the murder of 168 men, women, boys and girls in Oklahoma City.

Sure, the jury has spoken, twice now. The penalty is in line with Federal law. The horror of the crime is beyond measure or comprehension.

Sounds like a lock on plunging a needle into McVeigh's arm one day.

But will that needle ever reach McVeigh? Should it?

Moral opposition to the death penalty has already come from Bishop William S. Skylstad, chairman of the US bishops' Domestic Policy Committee, who believes executing McVeigh "would tragically perpetuate a terrible cycle of violence and further diminish respect for life."

The law itself is untested; its constitutionality has never been reviewed by the United States Supreme Court.

Cost, too, becomes an issue. Is it worth the \$3 million in taxpayer-funded legal fees that it will cost as the verdict and penalty are appealed through the legal system, compared to the \$1 million it will cost to keep McVeigh in prison for the rest of his life?

Moral and legal opposition and financial considerations aside, is

there another reason that McVeigh should not be executed? Is there a lesson to be learned by others, not from his death but from his life - one to be spent, as long as he lives, behind bars?

Each spring, Arab youths in the autonomous territories stage a

along with his victims'.

That is the way to meet Allah, so potential suicide bombers are told. Last year, when notorious "Engineer" Yihye Ayyash, responsible for dozens of deaths in Israel, met his end via a booby-trapped telephone pressed to his ear, his

Execute a terrorist, and he becomes a 'glorious martyr.' Leave him behind bars, and others might not follow his example

mock bombing attack using a cardboard cutout designed to resemble an Israeli bus.

We know it's an Israeli bus, because we have seen them all too often on the TV news: blown apart, twisted, with missing windows and blackened frames and an Israeli soldier looking through the wreckage for God knows what.

This annual mock attack is staged to mark a "great victory" over hapless folk riding the bus to work, to school, or a brief vacation in the Gaza Strip.

It also commemorates the death of the suicide bomber - the martyr for the cause of Palestinian freedom - who takes his own life

funeral through the streets of Gaza was attended by over 200,000 people.

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, Israel's peace partner, took to the roof and praised Ayyash as one of the great martyrs for the Palestinian cause.

So too does Arafat praise the other attackers of Israeli buses. They are heroes because they died and took Jews with them. And because they are praised as martyrs, others seek to emulate them.

Maybe something would have been gained had Arafat not turned Ayyash and others like him into martyrs. Maybe the next candidate to be a suicide bomber would not

have seen glory in his own death. Maybe the absence of glory is enough to stop the next impressionable Arab youth from packing dynamite around his waist or in a shopping bag and walking onto a bus or into a crowd at an outdoor cafe.

EXECUTE Timothy McVeigh, and again we run the risk of creating a martyr - the same way that David Koresch and Waco became a fixation for McVeigh.

Execute Timothy McVeigh, and his photograph will go up on the bedroom walls of skinheads and in the dark meeting rooms of white supremacists and anti-government militias around the US.

If Waco was a harbinger of McVeigh's act in Oklahoma City, why let his execution serve a similar purpose for some other sick mind?

If, on the other hand, we let McVeigh live for the rest of his life in prison, there is no glory, there is no martyrdom. And, possibly, there will be no more attacks against Federal office buildings.

I think it is worth the gamble.

The writer is the father of Alisa Flatow, who was killed in a terrorist attack near Kfar Darom on April 9, 1995.

Applying the lessons of Bar-On

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

How is Benjamin Netanyahu applying the lessons learned from the Bar-On Affair? Let's hope that the current crisis over monetary reform is not an example.

Did Netanyahu stage the Caesarea showdown with Dan Meridor Monday night despite the fact that the finance minister was due to leave that evening for an urgent meeting with US Secretary of State Madeline Albright and Crown Prince Hassan, or because of it?

Did Meridor's opposition to the Bar-On appointment enter into it? There is more than a slight suspicion that the foreign currency account is not the only one that Netanyahu is interested in settling. All's fair in love and war, and especially in politics.

The euphoria induced by the High Court decisions on Sunday brought out the killer instinct on Monday.

If Netanyahu misunderstands the High Court judgments in the Bar-On Affair and thinks that he has been cleared, the court itself is partly to blame. In a series of decisions, it has created the impression that sitting in judgment on the political process has become a judicial function.

Hence, when the court declines to intervene, as in Bar-On, there is a misapprehension that the politicians have come out clean.

Even express declarations in the opinions that the court was deciding on only the criminal, not the normative aspects of the case, went largely unreported.

Justice Yitzhak Zamir went so far as to add to one of his opinions a section entitled "On Law and Ethics." In it, he warns against going too far in turning ethical norms into legal rules.

An excess of legal prohibitions in public life, Zamir maintains, would be difficult to enforce, and would remain on the law books as dead letters. The enforcement of ethical norms in public life, he declares, is the function of the political process, with the ultimate accounting at election time.

In one of Sunday's High Court cases, Zamir authored the principal judgment rejecting a petition to order the government to create a judicial commission of inquiry to go into the non-criminal aspects of the Bar-On Affair. This was a return to a position Zamir had taken more than three decades ago during the Lavon Affair.

David Ben-Gurion, then out of government, had demanded a judicial commission of inquiry, a demand that in 1968 led to the present law on investigatory commissions.

Instead, the justice minister, Pinhas Rosen, set up a cabinet committee of seven ministers,

which he chaired, to investigate the so-called "mishap" of 1954, a disastrous army intelligence operation in Egypt, followed by a cover-up involving perjury, suborning of witnesses, and the falsification of documents.

The committee of seven cleared Ben-Gurion's nemesis, Pinhas Lavon, the former defense minister, of all responsibility. Rosen asked Dr. Yitzhak Zamir, then a young law lecturer at the Hebrew University, for an opinion.

Zamir concluded, in a 67-page opinion, that the government had

If Netanyahu thinks that he has been cleared in the affair, the High Court is partly to blame

the discretion to refuse to appoint a commission of inquiry under the prevailing law, and was within its rights in opting for the committee of seven.

AS in his 1965 opinion on the Lavon Affair, so in his present judgment in Bar-On: Zamir upholds the refusal of the government to appoint a judicial commission of inquiry.

However, under the present law, he declares that the negative decision of the government is subject to judicial review, and would be reversed by the High Court if it went beyond the realm of reason.

The range of discretion that the government enjoys on such a matter is so broad, he contends, that it is difficult to imagine a concrete case in which the court would reverse a decision of the government not to go the judicial investigation route.

In the Bar-On matter, Zamir points out that "there are few affairs that were investigated so thoroughly by the police." That leaves open precisely the area Zamir delineates as the ethical one, in which the police presumably have no role to play.

Ethical purity, however, is a legitimate area of concern for the state comptroller, where the comptroller can trigger the creation of a judicial commission of inquiry.

This was the case with the Bejski Commission, which investigated the rigging of the stock market for bank shares, following the report of then state comptroller Yitzhak Tunik.

The catch is that while the state comptroller can recommend a judicial inquiry, the decision to establish one is left to the Knesset State Control Committee, which has a majority representing the coalition parties.

Unless there is a break in party ranks, there are few cases in which the committee would decide on the creation of an inquiry commission against the wishes of the government.

The lessons of the Bar-On Affair, therefore, are twofold. One is that the law should be changed to permit the state comptroller to initiate the creation of a judicial commission of inquiry on the basis of his own preliminary inquiry.

As the law provides, the comptroller would refer matters involving criminal prosecution to the police. The comptroller's job is the protection of standards of sound administration in government, including ethical rules of public behavior.

The second lesson is more in the nature of a premonition. We have seen how the people around Netanyahu go about choosing an attorney-general.

It remains to be seen how they will decide on a candidate for the post of state comptroller when the term of the present incumbent, Miriam Ben-Porat, expires.

The writer comments on legal and political affairs.

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Hague wins Tory leadership

News agencies

LONDON (AP) - Ex-Welsh Secretary William Hague, 36, yesterday won the leadership of Britain's Conservative Party, becoming the party's youngest leader in 200 years.

Hague, from the center-right and an opponent of Britain ever joining a single European currency, defeated ex-Treasury chief Kenneth Clarke, the party's leading pro-European in a third round ballot by 90-72 votes.

John Major stepped down as leader within hours of the Conservatives' crushing defeat in the May 1 election at the hands of Tony Blair's Labor Party.

Hague, 36, clinched victory after winning the backing late Wednesday of former prime minister Margaret Thatcher, the standard-bearer of the right wing.

Hague, now leader of the opposition, faces a daunting task in trying to rebuild the party, traumatized by its landslide defeat by Labor after 18 years in power.

The scale of the Tory defeat was due partly to splits over closer relations EU, particularly right-wing demands to rule out Britain joining the single currency.

Lady Thatcher did not have a vote in the ballot but remains an influential figure in the party right-wing.

Hague won despite a stumble



William Hague (Reuters)

Monday when he said he would insist the party's top spokesmen rule out joining a single currency for a decade.

That stipulation may eliminate Clarke - who rates nationally and among grassroots activists as the most popular Conservative - from the party hierarchy.

A national survey of chairmen of local party branches released Thursday by Tory headquarters showed Clarke with support from 389, compared to 260 for Hague.



Turks out

Iraqi trade unionists with a portrait of Saddam Hussein protest in front of the Turkish embassy in Baghdad yesterday, calling on Ankara to withdraw its troops from northern Iraq. The Turks are on a mission to crush Kurdish separatists who keep their bases inside Iraq as they fight for independence from Turkey. (Reuters)

Turkish president assesses PM candidates

ANKARA (AP) - President Suleyman Demirel yesterday sounded out political leaders before designating a successor to modern Turkey's first Islamic premier.

Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan resigned to thwart pressure from the military, which was angered over his attempts to put a stronger Moslem stamp on society.

Erbakan was hoping that his Islamic-oriented Welfare Party could remain in power by staying in a coalition with the center-right True Path Party. True Path's leader, Tansu Ciller, would serve as premier, according to his plan.

The outcome depended on Demirel, who has said he would act quickly.

Demirel met first with main opposition leader Mesut Yilmaz, head of the conservative Motherland Party.

Yilmaz offered himself as an alternative to Ciller, saying he

could govern without the Islamic party's support. Demirel was leaning toward that option, Yilmaz told reporters after the meeting.

"The country needs a government to protect (the secular) system ... and we are ready to take responsibility," he said.

Neither True Path nor Motherland alone can muster enough votes for a majority in Parliament, which must approve the government. Mrs. Ciller and Yilmaz are bitter rivals and are unlikely to join forces themselves to keep out Welfare.

Under an agreement between Erbakan's Welfare and True Path, she would lead the country to early elections within four months.

But several obstacles remained. Tradition calls on Demirel, an independent, to designate the leader of the main opposition party - Yilmaz.

Mrs. Ciller similarly may have trouble gathering enough support.

Although she has the outside support of a small ultra-nationalist party which gives her a majority backing in Parliament, defections from her own party may prove troublesome.

It was also unclear if the new setup would be satisfactory for the generals.

Erbakan angered the secular establishment with his attempts to allow female civil servants to wear Islamic outfits and a decision to change working hours to fit fasting hours during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

Aside from such symbolic moves, the generals also were outraged by heightened calls for an Islamic regime at rallies and in speeches by Welfare deputies.

The military issued its first ultimatum to Welfare in February. After Erbakan appeared defiant, it got harsher and warned that it would crush the Islamic political movement with the use of arms if necessary.

Jospin program angers Right

PARIS - Over angry shouts by conservative lawmakers, Socialist Premier Lionel Jospin yesterday proposed a 4 percent rise in the minimum wage and vowed to block the sifting of public services.

In his first National Assembly speech since his leftist coalition came to power in a stunning June 1 parliamentary runoff victory, Jospin also promised to revamp the former right-wing government's tough immigration laws.

"The French made a choice full of hope but heavy with demands," Jospin said. "We want to give a precious thing back to the country ... a meaning." Jospin had been under pressure from the Communists in his coalition to grant the rise in the minimum wage, currently at about 6,400 francs (\$1,100) a month.

In proposing the 4 percent increase, Jospin called it "the strongest rise in buying power over the past 15 years for that salary level." Conservatives, shouting repeatedly during the speech, howled in their loudest protest.

Jospin said he opposed privatizing public sector industries "with-

out justification in the national interest." Alluding to the phone company France Telecom, he mentioned telecommunications, electronics and "other sectors." But Jospin underlined that "adaptation will be necessary to maintain our level among the most developed nations of the world."

Jospin proposed a plan to build 100,000 dwellings and renovate 1 million others to expand housing and fight record 12.8 percent unemployment. He also called for an increase in student aid but stopped short of other new programs pending a study of the state budget to be completed next month.

The new premier, with whom conservative President Jacques Chirac must now share power, won the vote by blasting the conservatives' inability to cut the jobless rate with market-oriented policies of cutting spending and business taxes.

Instead, the left hopes to stimulate job-creation by putting more money in employees' hands and by cutting the work week to spread jobs around.

(News agencies)

'McLibel' decision makes hamburger of activists

LONDON (Reuters) - After the longest trial in English legal history, two penniless activists were found guilty of libelling hamburger giant McDonald's and ordered to pay £60,000 (NIS 350,000) in damages yesterday.

Judge Roger Bell found that the statements in a six-page pamphlet published by Helen Steel, 31, and Dave Morris, 43, in 1984 that McDonald's was responsible for starvation in the Third World, destruction of rainforests and for selling unhealthy food "injured the plaintiff's reputation." But other allegations that the fast food group's advertising was exploitative of children, that it was responsible for cruelty to some animals and that it paid low wages were accurate, he said.

"The majority of the defamatory statements I found to be untrue. Others were true," Judge Roger Bell said in his two-hour summation of the "McLibel" case that attracted worldwide attention.

Both sides claimed victory after the judgement. "For the sake of our employees and our customers, we wanted to show these serious allegations to be false and I am pleased that we have done so," Paul Preston, chairman of McDonald's Restaurants Ltd (UK) said in a later statement.

Morris and Steel, who conducted their own defense during the 313-day trial after being denied state legal aid, said the trial had vindicated McDonald's critics.

"Despite the overwhelming odds ... the judge has found McDonald's guilty of exploiting children, of cruelty to animals and of having an anti-union attitude," Steel said.

"We wanted to show by example you can stand up to even the most powerful adversary," said Morris.

The crusading pair vowed to take the case to the European Court of Human Rights to challenge English libel laws: Because they have no money they could not pay the damages, they added.



RUS ELISHEVA

bas

HARAV CHAIM OZER CHAIT

We are grieved by the sudden and tragic loss of Rus.
We mourn together with the Chait and Zwick mishpachot.

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In deep sorrow, we announce the passing of my dear wife, our mother, sister,
grandmother and great-grandmother

ESTHER CHAIT

Daughter of Reb Baruch Mordechai Wolkovitch ז"ל

The funeral will take place today, Friday, June 20, 1997 (15 Sivan 5757)
at 11:00 a.m., at the new Rishon Lezion cemetery.

We shall meet at the cemetery entrance.

Shiva at the "Ad 120" retirement home, Apartment 2, 40 Smilanski, Rishon Lezion.

The Bereaved Family

With great sorrow we announce
the passing of our beloved

SYLVIA GAFFEN

on June 18, 1997

Deeply mourned and very sadly missed
by her loving:

Husband, **Joe**
Children, **Ros and Len,**
Dave and Rosie,
Annette and Lionel

Grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren

מקדאן אלמל

The rise and fall of an 'outsider'

As soon as Dan Meridor became a threat to Binyamin Netanyahu, his fate was sealed. **Herb Keinon reports on the roots of a showdown**

A whiny milquetoast without a trace of backbone is the Dan Meridor image perpetuated over the last year by the popular satirical show, *Hartzufim*. Meridor's puppet is the wing who can't stand up to anyone; the nebbish at the beach who, if you just blow hard enough, will simply wither away.

This week Prime Minister Netanyahu blew and blew, but Meridor stood his ground. Meridor the *hartzuf* never puts up a fight; Meridor the man showed that he can.

Granted, he lost. In fact, he received a drubbing — going from the lofty Finance Ministry into the proverbial political desert. But at least he freed himself of his *hartzuf* image.

Ben-Gurion and Sharett, Peres and Rabin, Shamir and Levy — just a few of the duos in Israeli politics who, for long periods of time, couldn't stand one another. Netanyahu and Meridor have now earned their rightful spot on that list.

The prime minister, as he made clear in the various post-fight interviews he granted, would have us believe that the battle over the "diagonal mechanism," which restricts fluctuations in the shekel exchange rate, was a legitimate disagreement between those charting the country's economic strategy. That the battle began just a day after the High Court of Justice ruled in Netanyahu's favor on the Bar-On Affair could, therefore, be chalked up to coincidence.

But Meridor, in his own interviews, said that economics was the rationalization for the battle, not the reason. "It is strange to me that he [Netanyahu] began to be interested in the diagonal mechanism and the safety bands. In my eyes this does not seem real. It is very strange," he said.

The real reason for the fight, he intimated, was an attempt by the prime minister and "those around him" — a reference to Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman — to settle political accounts.

The account is long. And, as Likud MK Ruby Rivlin quipped, "Netanyahu has a long memory, and Lieberman erases nothing."

ON THE surface, said Ronit Vardi, author of the just-released book on Netanyahu titled *"Bibi: Who are you, Mr. Prime Minister?"* the two men have much in common. They are close in age: Meridor is 50, Netanyahu, 47. They both grew up in Jerusalem, their fathers were both involved in Revisionist politics. They both reached the rank of captain in

the army. There, she said, the similarities end.

Whereas the Meridor family was well-accepted in all sectors of society, Netanyahu's family was not even accepted by all those on the Right.

"Netanyahu's father was part of the small Jabotinsky circle on the Right," Vardi said. "They were not even accepted by the Irgun circle. While they were the outsiders, Meridor's family was very much on the inside."

This inside-outside dichotomy became even greater when the Netanyahu family left the country in the 1960s for an extended stay in the US.

"Netanyahu grew up in an American milieu," she said. "Meridor was very much the Israeli."

The same dichotomy was true within the party. Meridor worked his way up from within the Likud, becoming the cabinet secretary to Menachem Begin in 1982, a Knesset member in 1984, and justice minister in 1988.

Netanyahu, on the other hand, leaptfrogged over the party apparatus. Like Meridor, he began his political career in 1982, when then-Israeli ambassador to the US Moshe Arens plucked him out of relative obscurity to become his deputy in Washington. When Meridor became a MK in 1984, Netanyahu became the UN ambassador. And when Meridor became justice minister in 1988, Netanyahu took his seat as a freshman MK.

In an attempt to move into the Likud's mainstream, Vardi said, Netanyahu tried to get Meridor's brother, Salai, to be his spokesman at the UN. "He was looking for a way to get into the center of the Likud," she said, and saw Meridor as a way to help him in. Salai, who had just begun a stint as a Betar emissary in the US, turned him down.

WHEN Netanyahu returned to Israel in 1988, the "war of the camps" within the Likud was at its height. Both Netanyahu and Dan Meridor were part of the Shamir-Arens camp, which also featured the Likud "princes," the name given to that group of rising Likud stars who were grooming, and being groomed, to take control of the party: Benny Begin, Ehud Olmert, Ronni Milo, and Meridor himself.

"Meridor and the other princes looked down at Netanyahu, had little respect for him, held him in disregard," said Rivlin, for years a central figure in the Likud's Jerusalem branch, who knows both Netanyahu and Meridor well.

"Netanyahu resented Meridor for being part of the party's elite, and for being the darling of the country's elite."

"Although they were in the same camp, they never were together," said Vardi. "There was always tension between Netanyahu and the princes. Even at this stage. He let people understand that he was going to run for prime minister. It was well known that one day there would be a runoff."

The princes did not like Netanyahu, said Yitzhak Regev,



Televised clash: Meridor's nebbish 'hartzuf' challenges Netanyahu's.

(Yoni Haiman)

first septet in the party's convoluted system of drawing up its Knesset list, ensuring him a cabinet post if the party won.

The party, however, was clobbered. As a result, the long-simmering showdown between Netanyahu and the princes came about earlier than expected — in the 1993 primary race for the party's new leader. Meridor bowed out of the race, in deference to Begin, his close ally. He also threw his support behind

when the surveys were showing Netanyahu badly trailing Labor candidate Shimon Peres, there was a campaign run mostly through advertisements in the newspapers calling on the Likud to dump Netanyahu, and replace him with Meridor. The name closely linked with this campaign was Geshet's David Magen, who — along with Meridor and Begin — now constitute the opposition to Netanyahu within Likud-Geshet. The Netanyahu camp viewed this as an attempted coup.

"Meridor," Avigdor Lieberman said in a newspaper interview at the time, "is seeking to sabotage the agreement with Tsomet. As always, he leaves the dirty work to others to prepare a coup against Netanyahu."

Meridor's people, for their part, claimed that prior to the primaries for the Likud's Knesset slate, Netanyahu circulated lists of preferred candidates, and pointedly left Meridor off them. It was within the context of this bad blood that Meridor's willingness to appear on the Likud's first televised spot during the 1996 campaign and voice support for Netanyahu was seen as no small accomplishment, as a sign of peace between the warring camps. It was an illusion.

After the elections there were three issues that further strained relations. The first was the very appointment of Meridor as finance minister. Netanyahu's first choice for that job was Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel. But in the bungled handling of the ministerial appointments — Netanyahu promised too much to too many — the prime minister was given an ultimatum: Either Meridor receives the Finance, Foreign Affairs or Defense portfolio, or

neither Meridor nor Begin would sit in the government. Netanyahu capitulated. "This was a brutal way to get the ministry," Rivlin said. It was also a horrible way to start the newest phase of the already complicated Meridor-Netanyahu relationship.

The next strain came in the form of the Brodet Report, recommendations by former Finance Ministry director-general David Brodet on reforming

for those involved in the matter to look inward and try to figure out how this grave failure came about."

Sadly, said Rivlin, the person who lost the most from the Bar-On Affair was Dan Meridor. In this interpretation of events, Meridor was targeted by the prime minister because of their long, difficult history, which culminated in Meridor's comments on the affair.

Vardi, however, has a some-

what different interpretation. "The whole thing was not to get back at Meridor, but rather to gain complete control of the party," she said. "I don't think Netanyahu mixes emotions in his political decisions. It's not a matter of jealousy. He understood since the end of the 1980s that his main enemies in the Likud are Begin and Meridor. [Infrastructure minister Ariel] Sharon is older."

"He knew that he had to fight them. In 1993 he beat Begin, and now he has taken care of Meridor. He has now established himself as the only real Likud leader."

If Vardi's interpretation is indeed correct, and this is the way Netanyahu disposes of his political opponents, then Yitzhak Mordechai — considered now the most realistic challenger to Netanyahu from within the party — would do well to watch his back.

Meridor and the other princes looked down on Netanyahu, while Netanyahu resented Meridor for being the darling of the country's elite.

—Likud MK Ruby Rivlin

one of Netanyahu's staunchest supporters in the Likud Central Committee. "They saw themselves as the heirs to [Yitzhak] Shamir, and felt threatened by Netanyahu."

And for good reason, as it turned out. Netanyahu — the outsider, the newcomer, the former furniture salesman — took the central committee by storm, and was voted by the committee into the party's eighth slot on its Knesset list, higher than Begin (13) or Meridor (15). The die for future antagonism was cast.

As time wore on, the princes had more and more to fear from Netanyahu, whose rise in the party was meteoric. In the 1992 primaries to determine which 50 Likud candidates would be placed by the central committee on the Knesset list, Netanyahu came in second, well ahead of Meridor, who finished 16th. He also made it onto the prestigious

Begin. In a remark that did not endear him to Netanyahu, Meridor — alluding to the scandal around the alleged video of a Netanyahu tryst — said: "Benny is the one candidate whose morality is beyond reproach — his political, social and personal morality." This was but a foretaste of the criticism Meridor would level against Netanyahu some five years later, during the Bar-On Affair.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu, in the four-man primary race that included David Levy, Moshe Katsav and Begin, destroyed the competition, receiving 52 percent of the vote, to 26% to Levy, and 15% for Begin. The era of the princes was over; the Netanyahu epoch had begun.

IF, AS Rivlin said, Netanyahu has a long memory, then he has surely not forgotten that in the run-up to the 1996 election,

Prior to the primaries for the Likud's Knesset slate, Netanyahu circulated lists of preferred candidates and pointedly left Meridor off them.

the capital markets. Meridor backed the report, but — in a public slap in the face — Netanyahu buried it.

The final straw came with the Bar-On Affair. Meridor, looked upon by many as the cabinet's moral compass, gave the prime minister no support during the affair. On the contrary, he blasted Lieberman for publicly castigating the police over their handling of the investigation. Furthermore, after the attorney-general decided not to indict Netanyahu, Meridor said: "This does not mean that this was not one of the gravest affairs that I can remember since the establishment of the state. This does not mean that there is any reason for joy and happiness, because there is no doubt that the dark cloud that was created by the facts revealed here is not a simple cloud."

"Instead of attacking the media, the state attorney and the police, it would have been better

McLibel decision makes hamburge of activists

LONDON Activists in England have been told that their protest against McDonald's is a waste of time. A court has ruled that the activists' claim that McDonald's is a multinational corporation is unfounded. The court said that McDonald's is a British company and that its profits are made in Britain. The activists had argued that McDonald's was a multinational corporation because it had branches in many countries. The court said that this was not true and that the activists' protest was a waste of time.

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Victim of the establishment?

Is Gregory Lerner the fall guy in an Israeli conspiracy to get the Russians? A segment of the Russian community thinks so, Larry Derfner reports

I think the old-line Israeli elite is using the Lerner case to hurt Yisrael Ba'aliya and the Russians, although I don't know who exactly is behind it," maintains Simon Feldman, a journalist for the Russian-language newspaper *Novosti Nedeli* ("News of the Week"). "The elite is fighting a war because it fears competition from us. [For instance] Israeli professors are afraid that Russian immigrant professors are going to come into the universities and compete for their jobs."

Cries of "harassment" and "stigmatization" are spreading through Israel's Russian immigrant community as police broaden their investigation of suspected Russian mafia leader Zvi Ben-Ari, formerly known as Gregory Lerner. (He was jailed about a month ago on suspicion of major fraud and involvement in a murder in Russia, and of trying to bribe Israeli bank officials and politicians to further his multimillion-dollar economic interests here.)

Dov Kontorer, a columnist for the largest Russian-language newspaper, *Vesti* ("News"), said much of the Russian-language press, especially the smaller weeklies, features "very belligerent opinion pieces [on the Ben-Ari case] that accuse the Israeli establishment and police of trying to bring down every successful Russian politician and businessman. They claim that the Israeli elite doesn't want to let the Russians compete fairly in society, so it goes after Lerner and Yisrael Ba'aliya. I can't say that this is the dominant opinion in the Russian press, but it is definitely heard."

Yisrael Ba'aliya MK, Yuri Stern, reportedly due to be questioned by police in the case, gave an alarming hint of the mood among Russian immigrants when, interviewed on Israel Television last weekend, he claimed the Ben-Ari affair was the latest move by the Israeli elite to "keep out the Russians, the Mizrahim, the haredim - anybody who isn't

one of them."

He was quoted in *Ma'ariv* as saying, "If this treatment continues, we'll double our [current seven] Knesset seats in the next election." Stern's prediction was almost a precise echo of MK Aryeh Deri's forecast of what the Bar-On Affair would do for Shas.

Is Zvi Ben-Ari the Russians' Aryeh Deri - a criminal in the eyes of most Israelis, but a martyr in the eyes of most of his ethnic group? "A comparison can certainly be made between Lerner and Deri, in part because the claim that they are victims of persecution by the establishment is incorrect in both cases," said Kontorer, who describes himself as a "moderate" on the issue of Israeli discrimination against Russian immigrants, a bread-and-butter topic in the Russian-language press.

Kontorer suggested that Russian immigrants' attitudes on the Lerner investigation depend to a considerable extent on how successfully they themselves have integrated into Israeli society. Those who have gotten good jobs, good housing, are satisfied with their children's education, and identify with Israel tend to trust that the police are doing their work honestly, and that Ben-Ari might indeed be a criminal.

But many of the less successful, more resentful Russian immigrants who live a "ghetto" existence among others of their kind are convinced that Ben-Ari is the fall guy in an Israeli conspiracy to get the Russians.

At the Iv-Russ Russian-language bookstore on Tel Aviv's Allenby Street, clerk Sonia Maximov, 53, who came here four years ago from Moscow, said in halting Hebrew that Ben-Ari has been the victim of a "presumption of guilt" on the part of the police and the Israeli media.

"He shouldn't be called a mafioso. The courts have to rule on that," Maximov said, noting that she gets most of her news from the Russian press, but also from Israeli TV.



While the Hebrew press depicts Zvi Ben-Ari (Gregory Lerner) as a mafia king, some Russian-language newspapers portray him as a victim.

(Jonathan Bloom)

She said the Ben-Ari case increased the stigmatization of Russian immigrants.

"A lot of Israelis think all Russian men are criminals and all Russian women are whores. Maybe the Israeli intelligentsia doesn't think like this, but many working-class Israelis do," she said.

At the nearby Don Quixote Russian-language bookstore, Antonina Levintant, 24, who immigrated five years ago from Moscow, said her main worry about the Ben-Ari affair was that the Russian mafia is too widespread and powerful in Israel for the police to contain it.

"There are so many of these types of people here. I'm familiar with this sort of thing from Russia," she said, noting that the Don Quixote was torched three months ago, "and we don't know who did it or why."

With her Hebrew slang and hip elegant black outfit, Levintant seemed fully integrated into youthful Tel Aviv society. She



Is Zvi Ben-Ari the Russian's Aryeh Deri - a criminal in the eyes of most Israelis but a martyr in the eyes of his ethnic group?

(Israel Sim, Ariel Jeruzolimski)

reads *Yediot Aharonot*, not the Russian press. She said the notion of a plot by the Israeli elite to oppress the Russians via Ben-Ari had never entered her mind.

But she understands how others readily latch on to the conspiracy theory: In a word, she



explains it as self-pity. "This store is like a psychological clinic; I must talk to a hundred Russians a day. They complain all the time, as if everything is so hard for them here. But believe me, they don't suffer as much as they claim."

THE EFFECT of the Ben-Ari probe has been to increase the stigmatization of Russian immigrants. But it's another thing to suggest - as many Russians do - that this is its purpose.

Feldman is currently on a month's suspension from *Novosti Nedeli* over an opinion piece he wrote accusing Israel Police investigators of teaming up with antisemitic Russian police against Ben-Ari and the Russian immigrant community.

Feldman was also criticized for maligning Israeli Sephardim as the immigrants' enemies, but he denies this was his intention. "What I did write was that there are many Israelis who hate Russian immigrants, just as there are many antisemites in Russia," he said.

Whatever Feldman's intention, the Israel Police threatened to sue *Novosti Nedeli* for libel, but dropped the threat when the newspaper printed an apology.

"There are many, many articles on Lerner in the Russian

newspapers that are much harsher than mine was," Feldman noted. "The smaller Russian-language weeklies generally cover the case 'with a lot of passion, but little factual information,' Kontorer said."

But even *Vesti*, the most "Israeli-oriented" of the local Russian-language papers, reprinted a column written in Russia by Alexander Bovin, the previous ambassador to Israel, which charged that the Ben-Ari investigation "was part of an international effort to stop Russia from integrating into the global economy," Kontorer said.

While Yuri Stern's assessment of the case's value in Knesset seats was likely a hopeful exaggeration, Kontorer said the affair "isn't hurting Yisrael Ba'aliya's popularity at all." As for what the investigation will do for Ben-Ari's own reputation in the community, this won't be known until his legal fate is decided.

Kontorer, who thinks the evidence against Ben-Ari is very weak, guesses that he may eventually get convicted on a minor charge, or possibly even escape indictment altogether, which would leave him "not badly off" in the court of Russian-immigrant public opinion. "But if he is brought to trial and found innocent," Kontorer maintained, "then he's going to come out of this thing a hero."

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مكتبة النهر

Return to Oslo

The ambassador of the country that hosted the secret Oslo talks is heading home. Sven Erik Svedman speaks to Jay Bushinsky about Norway's role in the peace process

Roving ambassadors usually dart from country to country, dropping in on kings, presidents and ministers, but Norway's outgoing envoy to Israel, Sven Erik Svedman, oscillated between Tel Aviv, Gaza and Jerusalem, often covering 180 kilometers a day in his official four-wheel-drive vehicle.

The 50-year-old diplomat functioned here as the Oslo Accords' godfather, constantly checking implementation and, above all, supervising the Palestinian Authority's use of the \$200 million aid program allocated by the Norwegians for the first five years of the PA's existence.

Svedman, a tall and youthful Scandinavian whose veneer of amiability and diplomatic elegance cover a shrewd and realistic understanding of Middle Eastern politics and culture, was in on the secrets of Oslo from the start.

As minister and deputy chief of mission at Norway's embassy in Washington, he was aware that Israeli and Palestinian representatives were conducting clandestine talks in his nation's capital under the personal auspices of his chief, the late foreign minister Johan Jorgen Holst.

"The Americans knew something was going on, but they didn't know exactly what it was," he recalled.

He also remembered their attitude when Norway's role became clear. At first, his State Department contacts were surprised and skeptical, but not miffed or resentful, he said.

Some expressed astonishment that a country as geographically and historically remote from the Middle East as Norway would dare play the role of peacemaker. "We know the region well," he was told by his American counterparts, "but do you?"

Ireland, Guatemala and elsewhere to seek out its diplomatic skills.

Svedman inadvertently revealed the impetus for the Norwegian initiative when he flashed back to his nation's relatively short, but dramatic, history.

Norway was under Danish rule for 400 years, beginning in the 15th century, and then entered into a union with Sweden which lasted from 1814 to 1905. These political arrangements may have been benign and even convenient in material terms, "but they were not viable from the standpoint of national identity," he said.

"You can unleash negative forces by sacking to integration."

The implication was clear. The Palestinians' national aspirations seemed to be on the tip of his tongue. At the very least, Norway could understand their yearning for self-determination.

And then he came out with a concept in political science which demands serious reflection: "The smaller the state, the more preoccupied it is with national identity, sovereignty and independence." All this, he said, while speaking of Norway being a country of only 4.2 million inhabitants, but one whose independence is the sine qua non of its existence.

He attributed the country's ability to produce an Israeli-Palestinian agreement to the fact that Norway had good relations with both parties — with Israel since 1948 and with the Palestine Liberation Organization since its admission to the Socialist International in the mid-1970s.

Norway also had a unique insight into Israel's national ethos because it was conquered and occupied by Nazi Germany during World War II and because it is a young nation in chronological terms, he said.

"We could identify with the Jewish struggle," he added, noting that "there is



Signing of the Israel-PLO accord in Washington, September 13, 1993. Norway paved the way.

(Brammner/Harari)

joining the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, then-foreign minister Shimon Peres and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on the plane that took them to the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony. "We were working with a government that was part of Oslo — one which literally was Oslo!" he said.

"After the new [Likud-led] government was elected and confirmed that it wanted to carry Oslo forward, we respected the democratic choice of the Israeli electorate."

But once the Oslo Accords were born, Norway's role changed, Svedman said. "There no longer was any need for secret negotiations," he said. "The parties met often and with the public's knowledge, while our role shifted more toward the economic field."

Ultimately, Norway became the main coordinator of the international aid that was bestowed upon the Palestinians, facilitating monetary transfers and keeping abreast of its utilization in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

"We have a representative office in Gaza which is monitoring our aid program and we are satisfied that the Palestinians are doing their utmost to clarify these fiscal issues," he said. He expressed total confidence in the two special panels set up by the PA to this end.

"There have been problems, but they have been isolated and solved," insisted Svedman. He would not address the issue of fiscal irregularities that led to the resignation of the PA attorney-general.

A PA report concluded that more than \$40 million had vanished from the account books and that much of it may have ended up in private Palestinian hands. Svedman would only say that from now on "there must be transparency — that it should be possible to see where the money is going — and accountability where we can monitor usage."

On the other hand, he considers other economic problems crucial to the PA's success: the effect of periodical and prolonged

border closures on the Palestinian inhabitants' livelihoods and the "lack of contiguity" between the two

1,400 Jews who lived in Norway before the war, half were deported to the death camps and most of them perished there, while the other half were transferred to the safety of neutral Sweden. Recently, a commission was established consisting

"Oslo doesn't preclude anything. It's just a continuous framework in which both sides can consider their needs and rights."

—Svedman



Outgoing Norwegian Ambassador Sven Erik Svedman

(AP)

areas under PA administration, the West Bank and Gaza Strip — a situation that crimps marketing prospects for local producers as well as easy accessibility from

of representatives of the Jewish community and the World Jewish Congress to expedite all property claims.

Svedman's personal plans are set and secure. He is taking a three-year leave of absence from the diplomatic corps to become managing director of the oil, energy and off-shore industries and is looking forward to joining his 20-year-old son who remained in Norway to pursue his studies. With him in Israel were his wife and two daughters, one 13 and the other 18.

"After the new [Likud-led] government was elected and confirmed that it wanted to carry Oslo forward, we respected the democratic choice of the Israeli electorate."

—Svedman

NORWAY'S initial success lay in producing the seminal Oslo Accords.

The ambassador rejects the notion that the Oslo Accords impose any specific political arrangement on the parties. "Oslo doesn't preclude anything," he said. "It's just a continuous framework in which both sides can consider their needs and rights."

"I believe in it because there is no alternative."

The Oslo Accords catapulted Norway into the first rank of the world's troubleshooters and led contending parties in

enormous interest in Israel in Norway."

This fascination evidently is nurtured in Norway's schools.

He remembers two maps on the classroom walls during his days as a student, one of Norway and the other of Israel. The reason: Norway's state religion, Lutheranism, required that Norwegians be familiar with the Holy Land, where Christianity was born.

SVEDMAN'S two-and-a-half-year stint as Norway's envoy to Israel began in an atmosphere of euphoria. He remembers

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"A general feeling of disappointment and depression abounds."

— Riva Michaeli



"I prefer to pack my things and go to a place that I care less about. Then it just won't hurt me."

— Shaika Levy



"During terror attacks Levy stayed in the country and now he wants to leave?"

— Sefi Rivlin

Leave 'em laughing or just leave?

It's not often that the country's president invites you over for a drink to talk about your problems. But that's what happens when part of a national institution threatens to leave the country.

Shaika Levy, one of the three members of the legendary Hagashash Hahiver — the most celebrated comedy team in the country's history — wasn't joking last week during a bitter interview with *Yedioth Aharonot's* local newspapers, in which he declared that since the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and Benjamin Netanyahu's election he didn't feel he belonged in Israel anymore, and that he was seriously considering emigration.

The day after the interview was published, President Ezer Weizman phoned Levy and invited him to "Come over, sit and talk to me over a glass of whiskey or coffee. I want to know what pains you."

It's nothing new for prominent entertainment and cultural figures who identify with the Left to pronounce their dissatisfaction with government policy when the Likud is in power. But few mainstream figures express their disgust as bluntly as Levy did.

"I prefer to pack my things and go to a place that I care less about," he said in the newspaper interview. "Then it just won't hurt me. I'll see what's going on in Israel on CNN. I'll go to Las

Vegas, stay there, buy myself a house cheaply; it's not expensive there. A clean place, a quiet place, a relaxing place, with a cultural life. I won't get upset anymore."

Coincidentally, just a few days afterwards, local rock idol Aviv Gefen, currently living in London, told the *Observer* newspaper that he had chosen to live abroad for political reasons.

"When I was in Israel I could see the blood and smell the gunfire. When they started to shoot in the name of God, I knew that

"Since Rabin's assassination, the light has gone out, the well is empty."

— Shaika Levy

Israel was not a place to live. The right wing there wants to turn Israel into Iran," Gefen said, choosing not to stress, as he had in the Israeli press, that he was in England to pursue an international music career.

Gefen's words might have been strong, but were not shocking; he is certainly not the first young Israeli rocker to seek success abroad and he has built a career on breaking taboos and

Comedian Shaika Levy shocked many last week when he said he felt like leaving the country. How black is the mood among entertainers? Allison Kaplan Sommer reports

fighting the establishment.

But Levy's interview came as much more of a surprise. No 20-something rock artist like Gefen, he is a 56-year-old entrenched member of the cultural and entertainment establishment, who wields considerable power as the chairman of EMI, the national performing artists union.

Now, suddenly, Levy has declared that it is impossible for him to create comedy when he is so depressed about the direction in which the country is going and in which he "goes to sleep every night feeling helpless."

"It is not the same country since Rabin's assassination," he said. "Look at what is happening with the religious. Look at what is happening with the violence. Look at what is happening to tolerance. With the peace negotiations. Nothing. It doesn't exist. Everyone has retreated to his own side. As if the whole business is about to shut down tomorrow..."

"When Rabin was around, there was a relaxed feeling. We were going in a direction where there was a light at the end of the

tunnel. I said to myself: there are problems, but we're going in the right direction, we have a goal. But now the light has gone out, the well is empty."

He complained that "People who are different from me, who think completely differently from the way I think, are running the country. They are making decisions and I cannot do anything about it. That's democracy, but it is sad and very difficult..."

"You look at your prime minister and you say: He doesn't belong to me. He isn't an Israeli at all. He doesn't belong to us, he belongs to America... A prime minister of Israel who aspired to an American passport? People are dying in all kinds of military operations and he wanders around skiing in I-don't-know-where? Where have you heard of such a thing? The man does not belong to us. He is not one of us."

Levy attributes much of his sense of doom to the growth of the religious Right — "a bigger problem than the Arabs" — and fears their power and influence will only strengthen as they become a growing proportion of the population. That influence has and will hurt the cultural life as well as the political direction

of the country, he added.

IS THE mood truly so black among those who make their living laughing, singing, writing and otherwise keeping the nation entertained? Among much of the entertainment and cultural community, the answer is yes.

Comedian and talk-show host Riva Michaeli says that Levy said publicly what she has heard privately: "A general feeling of disappointment and depression abounds," she says.

She believes that women performers in particular fear being "controlled and dictated to" by religious forces, which she says form "an ideological threat" and will want to tell them when and where they can perform, what they should wear and whether or not to sing.

"And moreover, look, Sinead O'Connor won't come to Israel because she is feeling threatened — what does this say? That anyone who identifies with peace, with the Palestinian people, can't come here because their life is in danger? What's next?" she asks.

Musician Shlomo Gronich said he also discerns a "desperation, fear, and helplessness that didn't exist in the past... I understand

and sympathize with what Shaika Levy said... what is happening is very frightening and if the situation doesn't change very quickly, we can find ourselves in a country we don't know."

Author A.B. Yehoshua makes a distinction between the current malaise and opposition to past Likud governments.

"Listen, with [Menachem] Begin, with Golda [Meir], even when we opposed them, there was a vision, a hope that we would get to the top of the mountain and talk to the Palestinians and there will be

"Does Shaika mean to say he enjoyed the days when buses were exploding and people were dying?"

— Sefi Rivlin

peace. "Well, now it feels as if we were at the top of the mountain, and then we came down again... we had a dream and it was realized... now we seem to be sliding backwards, and there is frustration and depression, as if something beautiful has been contaminated."

"Many people, including me, are very tired of the political struggle, and don't have the strength to start again. What do we fight for? To talk to the PLO — well, we talk to them — Bibi talks to Arafat. Give them a state? Well, they are flying their flag. "But still it all seems to be going wrong — we're going backwards, but not back to where we were before — to a new, scarier place."

TO BE sure, not every performer

or artist rallies around Levy. Fellow comic Sefi Rivlin, who identifies with the right of the political map, says that Levy, who he considers to be a good friend, "didn't make me angry by what he said, but certainly shocked me and definitely disappointed me."

"Does Shaika mean to say that he enjoyed the times we were having a few years ago when the country was subject to terrorist attacks and buses were exploding and people were dying? During those times he stayed in the country and only now he wants to leave?" he asked.

Rivlin objects strongly to many of Levy's comments, most particularly to his attacks on Netanyahu and his government.

"What is this business of Bibi not being 'one of us'?" For goodness sakes, Ben-Gurion was from Russia, Begin was from Poland, Golda Meir had an American accent. Were they foreigners? How many generations was Ehud Barak's family living in Israel? Not many more than Bibi's, that's for sure.

"And how can you say that when times are tough you can't write comedy? I bet if you did an analysis of the best work of the Gashash, you'd find that some of their classic material was written when times were very hard — just before the Six Day War, just after the Yom Kippur War. I just don't buy it; you can write funny material during hard times when what is going on politically upsets you, and there are other times when things are wonderful and fine and you still can't write."

Ever the entertainer, the quick-witted Rivlin couldn't resist making a quip. "Well, I guess if he leaves the country I have to go, too. I'm a member of EMI, after all, and I have to follow my chairman. Bye-bye."

As for Levy himself, in the wake of the media storm around him, he left for an extended vacation in the south of France. Presumably, he purchased a round-trip ticket.

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مكازم التعلّم

Dry Bones



Saul was originally a modest man, but the increasingly popular, anti-Goliath David instilled in the first Israelite monarch a jealousy he could not contain. So much so, that when David once played the harp while leaning against the wall opposite the throne, a tragically depressed Saul suddenly lifted his spear and rocketed it in the palmist's direction, shouting "I'm going to hit David and the wall!"

In essence, that is what Netanyahu just tried to do to the most talented man in his cabinet, and the most potent center-right threat to his leadership.

Ultimately, just like King Sā's, his spear created a resounding thud, but otherwise colossally missed its target.

Daily dedication of the menorah



Perish
Robinson

tongs, and its pans and all its oil vessels..." (Num. 4:9) He explains that if the menorah's sections could not come apart, the Torah would not speak of the candlestick and then further catalog the lamps, cups and tongs. In his words: "They would be part of the menorah, and there would be no need to detail them."

We now understand why the service of the menorah was so special, and brought comfort to Aaron. The daily act of taking down the lamps, cleaning them, and then returning each piece to its place meant effectively rebuilding the menorah each day. Thus, every day he would be re-dedicating the menorah!

Hence, while the experience of the tribal princes was limited to a single and one-time dedication, Aaron and his descendants were given the opportunity to be involved in a daily dedication.

Although the Ohr Haim does not deal with Hanukka per se, his explanation adds a deeper level to our understanding of the festival. It is important to remember that the Torah section read each day of Hanukka corresponds to the daily dedications and offerings brought by the tribal leaders. And although the initial rabbinic enactment was that each family should light one candle during each of the eight days of Hanukka, those who desire to beautify and enhance the light add a candle each night until they reach eight lights (*B.T. Shabbat 22a*).

It seems to me that the rabbis are implying that each day of the miracle must be seen as a new experience; that we dare not take God's gifts for granted, even if they are repeated day after day. The renewed and rededicated menorah lamps are reflected in the renewed and rededicated Hanukkah lights; the priests rejoice in a renewed act of service each day, and every Jew must rejoice in God's renewed miracle of survival.

Moreover, the menorah symbolizes the Torah and its commandments: *Ki ner mitzva v'Torah Ohr...* Because the lamp is the mitzva, and Torah is the light (Proverbs 6:23). If the menorah is the *mitzva*, then not only must Aaron rededicate the menorah, he has to rededicate the Torah every day, turning every commandment into a new experience!

As our portion opens, Aaron has just participated in the dedication of the Sanctuary, each tribal leader presenting the sacrifices and offerings of his tribe over the

course of 12 days. Evidently, this experience was so significant that the Bible records the process 12 separate times, repeating virtually the exact words each time. The only way to justify such repetition is to assume that spirits were as

This, explains the Ohr Hahaim, must be our attitude toward Torah, the light of our lives. Aaron appreciated the service of the lights above all others because it involved a daily renewal. So must we

Shabbat Shalom

Shabbat Shalom

What is more, Miller added that "the very coming of the Conservatives ... was

tazia were denizens of some of the city's Ashkenazi baredi neighborhoods near the

(E-mail comments to: moshe@post.co.il)



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SHARANSKY

Continued from Page 1

Barak, who held consultations in his Tel Aviv office last night with 11 other Labor MKs, including former party chairman Shimon Peres, has also decided not to join a Netanyahu government under any circumstances.

Labor faction chairman Ra'anana Cohen is initiating meetings with members of the Third Way and Yisrael Ba'Aliya to try to persuade them to support the motions of no-confidence submitted by Labor, Meretz, Hadash and the Democratic Arab Party. "Even in the coalition, the understanding and recognition of the need for new elections is becoming sharper," Cohen said.

Although no-confidence motions are usually heard on Mondays, an exception has been made next week, because they would clash with the scheduled Likud internal elections. The motions will be heard on Tuesday instead.

Both Cohen and coalition chairman Michael Eltan are calling on MKs who are abroad to return for the vote, and announced the cancellation of all "pairing-off" agreements between absent opposition and coalition MKs. MKs have also been told to cancel foreign trips next week.

Meretz faction chairman Haim Oron said he will monitor the no-confidence votes to decide whether to go ahead with a Meretz bill calling for the dissolution of the Knesset and early elections. It is due to be heard on Wednesday. Oron, who submitted the bill, said: "This is the only way to publicly test the declarations of coalition MKs who have said that they have lost faith in the prime minister. The only way out of the political and moral crisis we are in is to dissolve the Knesset and hold early elections."

Perhaps the most worrisome development for Netanyahu yesterday was the fact that MK David Re'em (Likud) announced he is launching a campaign called "Yes to the Likud, no to Bibi." Re'em said that "should the opportunity arise to bring down the government and call early elections, I would vote against the government, and I am sure that with a new leader the Likud would win the elections. Netanyahu has been disloyal not only to his friends, but also to the Likud ideals. He has decided to rid himself of the true Likud representatives, which is why he fired Benny [Ze'ev] Begin and then he fired Dan Meridor and who knows who he'll fire next - [Defense Minister] Yitzhak Mordechai and [Communications Minister] Limor Livnat, maybe. He fires anyone he dislikes."

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza took Re'em to task yesterday, wondering "where he came up with these absurdities. Netanyahu never fired Begin, who left [the government] to protest the Hebron agreement. Meridor quit over an economic issue, no one forced him to quit."

Re'em, however, refused to undertake that he would indeed vote against the government in the confidence motion before the Knesset next week. Meridor himself also refused to say what he would do in that vote.

But in theory the in-house opposition to Netanyahu now numbers four - Begin, Meridor, David Magen of Geshet, and Re'em. This brings the Netanyahu coalition down to a dangerous 62 out of 120 MKs - 61 votes are needed for a no-confidence motion to pass. If the motions pass, new elections would have to be held for both the Knesset and the prime minister. Some 20 no-confidence motions have been defeated since the government took office last year.

NE'EMAN

Continued from Page 1

Hanegebi reiterated yesterday his emphatic refusal to switch portfolios. "If the prime minister does not want me to serve in my present capacity, it will be no disaster. I don't have to be in the government. I can serve as an ordinary MK and I will be a loyal one," Hanegebi said.

"I will support the government," he said.

Hanegebi denied that he was given the portfolio on condition it would be returned to Ne'eman should he extricate himself from his legal travails, as he did.

Strengthening the Likud representation in his cabinet should help Netanyahu dissipate the storm caused by Dan Meridor's resignation.

However, at least one source claims that Ne'eman is inclined to return to the government, a fact which could stymie Netanyahu's next plan.

Netanyahu would like to wrap up his cabinet reshuffle as soon as he can to prevent any further instability to his coalition. The Meridor resignation encouraged talk of early elections from several quarters yesterday and triggered insurrection by MKs who feel their individual power has increased as the overall size of the coalition diminishes.

Some of this rebellious spirit may be evident at today's cabinet session, which some ministers promise will be stormy.

The ministers who were absent from the special Tuesday cabinet session at which Meridor resigned - Yitzhak Mordechai, Limor Livnat, and Yitzhak Levy - are expected to attend today's meeting. Mordechai has already told Netanyahu's aides that he will back him.

Meridor's resignation went into effect early this morning, exactly 48 hours after it was tendered.

IRAN

Continued from Page 1

Khatami is scheduled to enter office in August.

Diplomatic sources said Syria has also entered into the offensive. As the Shura members were meeting in Beirut, the sources said, Bashar Assad, the son of President Hafez Assad, met with Hizbullah leader Hassan Nasrallah.

The sources said the two men decided to attack Turkish targets. The sources said they did not know whether action against Israel was discussed. Hizbullah has tried to promote joint Arab action against Turkey and Israel.

Nasrallah, the diplomatic sources said, recently informed his colleagues in the Shi'ite organization that Iran, Syria and Iraq have decided to cooperate to help radical Islamic opposition groups in Turkey. Nasrallah said Hizbullah would participate in this campaign, but was not specific.

The decisions of joint Arab action against Turkey came as Syria has decided to open its border with Iraq after 17 years. The border was closed when Baghdad severed relations with Damascus, which supported Iran during its war with Iraq in the 1980s.

Douglas Davis adds from London: The Arabic-language media are alive with interest over the developing rapprochement between Syria and Iraq. It is believed the Syrians are being impelled by the perceived threat of an Israeli-Turkish alliance.

They are said to be moving cautiously in an attempt to avoid ruffling Washington's feathers, while simultaneously focusing Washington's attention on Syrian needs. Developments so far, however, have been sufficient to alarm Iraqi dissidents who had sought a safe haven in Syria and are now seeking refuge elsewhere.

FRANCE

Continued from Page 1

According to the sources, Israel is requesting that the Lebanese government take full responsibility for the security situation on its side of the border by moving its army into the security zone.

Israel also wants a clear guarantee for the safety of South Lebanese Army soldiers and their families.

The sources said that Richard promised to raise the request with the government and that the French defense establishment would examine all its aspects.

In recent months, the French press has reported that former Defense Ministry director-general David Levy, a senior adviser to Mordechai, has been conducting a series of secret meetings here with members of the French defense establishment about an arrangement in south Lebanon in which France would be involved.

After his meeting with Richard, Mordechai said that he had asked the French to examine ways in which they could assist the peace process between Israel and Lebanon.

"I didn't speak about specifics," he said. "I noted that France has close ties with Lebanon, and also the ability to influence the Lebanese and the Syrians."

MUBARAK

Continued from Page 2

Chirac's spokeswoman, Catherine Colonna, said that both the French and Egyptians are concerned about a certain disengagement of the US administration vis-à-vis the peace process, and about "inflexible Israeli conduct that might cause a considerable danger to the situation in the region."

Jan Immanuel adds: The Palestinians are hopeful that Egyptian efforts supported by the European Union and the US will establish a basis for returning to direct talks, but warn that they have no faith in Israeli goodwill and current low-level violence will expand if Israeli policies do not change.

"If there is no hope, there will be a vacuum, and we learned a long time ago that a vacuum will be filled... The Egyptians are trying to find a common ground. There are indications by some of the American spokesmen about renewed efforts to support the Egyptian and even the European efforts to resume talks," said Marwan Kanafani, a spokesman for Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, speaking to the press in Ramallah yesterday.

The alternative would be an expansion of the violence that is currently being played out in Hebron, with the passive complicity of the PA, he said. Kanafani called it a legitimate response to Israeli actions and no violation of the PA's obligations. "I don't think the PA is obliged to control what is happening on the ground as long as it does not affect law and order and the lives and property of innocent people on both sides," he said.

Kanafani praised the EU resolution in Amsterdam Wednesday calling on Israel not to rule out a Palestinian state.

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GRAPEVINE



Michael Issacs (left), Yossi Siyas, and Sara Netanyahu

Power brunch

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

For her gala birthday brunch at the Dan Pearl Hotel, Jerusalem, insurance broker Michael Issacs, who chairs the Professional and Career Women's Forum, asked guests not to bring gifts but to give donations to Life Line (Kav LeChaim), an organization which devotes itself to caring for sick children, especially those with cancer, cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy.

Among her many friends who generously responded to the cause were Sara Netanyahu, who noted that one of the most important mitzvot in Judaism is helping the sick, Life Line president and wife of the interior minister Ahuva Suissa, Tzipi Ishai, wife of the minister of labor and social affairs, MK Naomi Blumenthal, Ludmilla Tichon, wife of the Knesset Speaker, prominent lawyer and socialite Tami Raveh and most of the capital's social elite.

Even though it was a Friday morning, most of the guests arrived on time. Stella Hadas, wife of former Foreign Ministry director-general Yossi Hadas, attributed the punctuality to the fact that Jerusalem housewives no longer knock themselves out to prepare for Shabbat. With ready-made foods so easily available, they just pick up what they need from the take-out stores and have more time to spend on their own pleasure.

Men were few and far between. Even Issacs, who heads the Jerusalem Economic Forum and does almost everything in partnership with his wife, was absent on this occasion. However, Life Line founder Tuvia Levenstein did make an appearance to explain how much measure the organization was able to provide sick children through its summer camps here and in the US. Radio personality Yossi Siyas was also present.

Even if he'd wanted to, quintuple Oscar winner Arthur Cohn would not have been able to refuse to give his patronage to the 25th anniversary celebrations of Emunah College. His wife, Naomi, heads Emunah in Basel. The couple, who recently purchased a home in Jerusalem, will now be dividing their time almost equally between Israel and Switzerland.

The focal point of the celebrations was the screening of a newly restored version of Cohn's prize-winning film *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis*. But prior to the screening, comedian Motti Glati and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer stole the show with a Biblical duet. The two had the same bar-mitzva portion, and several decades later were still able to sing it without a hitch to a highly appreciative audience.

MIKHAIL BOGDANOV, newly arrived ambassador of the Russian Federation, and Rosalinda de Perio-Santos, ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines, hosted gala receptions for their countries' National Day and Independence Day respectively, which both fell on the same date. Unfortunately for the invitees to both, they were held simultaneously, one in Herzliya and the other in Tel Aviv.

Bogdanov, on the advice of his Second Secretary and Chief of Protocol Anatoly Yurkov, chose the lawns overlooking the sea front at the Sharon Hotel, Herzliya, for his function which ran from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. De Perio-Santos, clad in an exquisitely embroidered national costume, hosted her affair at the Hilton in Tel Aviv from 7 to 9 p.m.

Guests entering the Russian reception, which was graced by President Ezer Weizman and Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, were presented with three roses in the colors of the Russian flag. The largesse was also reflected in the fare - huge portions of top-quality smoked salmon and lots of vodka. There was also a brilliant fireworks display.

Romanian Ambassador Gheorghe

Popescu was slightly peeved because he was one of several new ambassadors who presented their credentials on the same day as Bogdanov, with only the Russian ambassador receiving media attention.

South African ambassador Frank Land and his wife Maatchien did a split roster. He went to the Russian day, while she attended the Philippines reception where he joined her towards the rail end. Other latecomers to the Philippines event were nattily attired Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegebi, who obligingly gave the local paparazzi a series of photo opportunities, and casually dressed Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, who, when propelled forward by property developer and newly appointed Philippines Honorary Consul Alfred Akkro, apologized profusely for his tardiness, saying "better late than never."

BETTER late than never was equally appropriate to the reception hosted earlier on the same day by Australian ambassador Ian Wilcock and his wife Tamara for Paul Morawetz, the initiator of the Hephzibah Menuhin Chair at the Rubin Music Academy. The reception, which was originally to have been hosted by Wilcock's predecessor Peter Rogers, was deferred when Morawetz took ill.

As it happens, Wilcock went to school with the guest of honor's son, David, so it was more fitting for him to do something for Morawetz. But more than that, Wilcock is a collector and accumulator of, among other things, concert programs.

In 1962, he went to a concert given by Hephzibah and Yehudi Menuhin and kept the program, which is still in mint condition. It now belongs to Morawetz, who, though a resident of Australia,

described himself as rootless but able to feel at home anywhere in the world. Since he was born in Austria and educated in Prague, Austrian ambassador Herbert Kroll and Czech ambassador Jiri Schneider were also present.

It almost looked as if the Supreme Court had transferred from Jerusalem to Ramat Gan as Supreme Court President

Aharon Barak and his colleague on the bench, Justice Zvi Tal, rose to "hood" retired Supreme Court Justice Prof. Menachem Elon on the occasion of his receipt of an honorary doctorate from Bar-Ilan University. Also present at the on-campus ceremony was State Attorney Edna Arbel.

The keynote address was delivered by Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein. Honorary doctorates were also awarded to Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky, Yale University Professor of Child Psychiatry, Pediatrics and Psychology, Dr. Donald J. Cohen, Torah scholar Rabbi Yosef Kapach and philanthropists Lorenz Cederbaum of Germany and Mira Koschitzky of Toronto.

AN INFORMAL reunion of members of Junior Hadassah will be held this coming Sunday, June 22, at the ground-breaking ceremony for the new sports complex at the Meir Shefya Youth village. The event, which will be held in the presence of Deborah Kaplan, former National President of Hadassah, will have special significance for Chama Levi (formerly Hilda Snyder) and Tzvia Rabiner (formerly Harriet Lieberman), who, as participants in the first Zionist Youth Leaders Year in Israel course held in 1947-48, spent part of the program in Meir Shefya.

IT APPEARS that US President Bill Clinton is not the only celebrity draft dodger. According to a Reuters report, Harrison Ford, in the July edition of *Movieline* magazine, admits to having avoided the draft during the Vietnam War by claiming to be a conscientious objector - a role which doesn't quite gel with his heroic movie image.

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by DOSH

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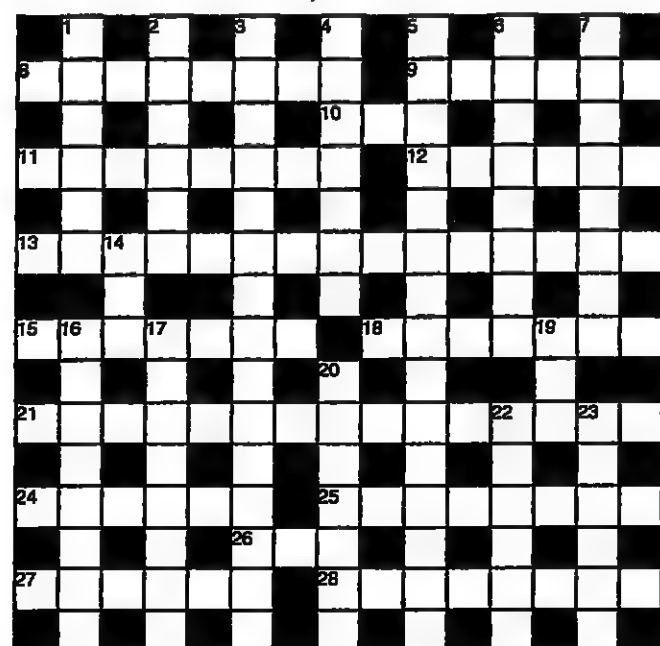
ACROSS

- 8 Wrecker is a brute, so vicious (8)
9 Instigator of rising is to abandon the North (6)
10 I shall shortly be sick (3)
11 Demand for attention gets angry response (4,4)
12 Presumably it's not even a curiosity (6)
13 To meet threat, he'd get prepared—with such full defence? (5,2,3,5)
15 Women on move to tiny crescent (3,4)
18 To begin, the French are shy (7)
21 Showing natural poise, working men not abhorrent (2,3,6,4)
24 Female should have resisted strongly (6)

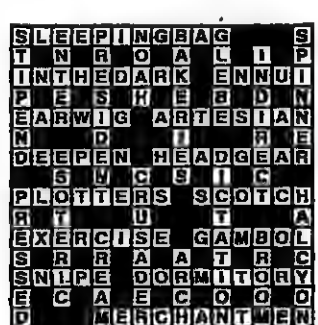
- 25 The main sign of a polluting spillage (3,5)
26 Starts to take extremely alcoholic drink (3)
27 One that's engaged is some ruffian, certainly (8)
28 Little creature dropping in the water to grab a pound (8)

DOWN

- 1 Party is hard work (6)
2 Volume that's better (6)
3 The pick of sitting Members of Parliament? (6,9)
4 Italian city street I wander round (7)
5 Everywhere in disarray (3,4,3,5)



SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Phil, 3 Lottery, 9 Under, 10 Brigade, 11 Tie, 13 Terrified, 14 Polish, 16 Elated, 18 Prejudice, 20 Cat, 22 Regaled, 23 Sober, 25 Shedding, 26 Eddy.
DOWN: 1 Family, 2 Lid, 4 Auburn, 5 Trivial, 6 Realistic, 7 Yielded, 8 Fret, 15 Colleague, 14 Papyrus, 15 Squallid, 17 Hidden, 19 Easy, 21 Tardy, 24 Bid.

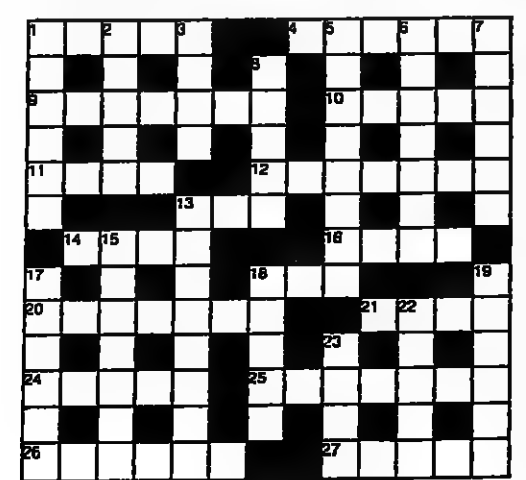
QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Brief (5)
4 Alteration (6)
9 Umpire (7)
10 Shunned person (5)
11 Attired in (4)
12 Style (7)
13 Trifle (3)
14 Perfumed flower (4)
16 Seaweed (4)
18 Container (3)
20 Large feline (7)
21 Celebrity (4)
24 Love affair (5)
25 Voting papers (7)
26 Dwell (6)
27 Good friends (5)

DOWN

- 1 Astute (6)
2 Present for sale (5)
3 Conservative (4)
5 Steersman (8)
6 Dozing (7)
7 Making mistakes (6)
8 Muscular (5)
13 Tattered (8)
15 Burdensome (7)
17 Cream cake (5)
18 Attractiveness (6)
19 Joins (6)
22 Card pack (5)
23 Article (4)



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مکان العمل

Friday,
June 20, 1997

BUSINESS & FINANCE

13

HIGH TECH

in brief

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Ephix and Nippon Systemware sign \$1m. deal

Ephix Technologies signed a \$1 million deal to provide Japanese software house Nippon Systemware with its V-Active technology for fully interactive video authoring. Concurrently, NSW made a \$1m. investment in the Israeli company. NSW will market Ephix products both directly and via OEM agreements, under the NSW brand name.

The V-Active video authoring tool enables users to receive information while watching a video.

HP to expand local operations

In an effort to expand its global research effort, Hewlett-Packard recently announced that it plans to expand its local R&D facilities, as well as upgrade the status of its research operation at the Technion in Haifa. HP's Israel Science Center will be renamed HP Labs Israel.

IES signs \$1.3m. deal with Hayes

IES, which holds 62% of the cable modem manufacturer Combox, has signed a \$1.3m. deal with US company Hayes. This is Combox's first commercial order.

To date, the company has only sold modems to Israeli company Niv Media Communication, which is also a subsidiary of IES. The Hayes order will be filled later this year.

Memco releases new security product

Memco Software, a provider of information security software solutions, has introduced Proxima, a new security software product line. Proxima is designed to be more efficient and cheaper and help avoid careless mistakes that can threaten an enterprise's security.

With Proxima Manager, an administrator has a central point for managing hundreds or thousands of user IDs and passwords for both platforms and leading applications.

NMC, Comstream develop faster modem

New Media Communication and Comstream have developed a cable modem that works at a speed of 52 Mbps. Known as Cyber City, the modem is considered the fastest of its kind in the world.

The two companies also developed a version intended for satellite communication, called Cyber, which works at a speed of 48 Mbps.

A portion of the modem was developed in Israel by Comstream Israel, a wholly owned subsidiary of the San Diego company, which is a subsidiary of Rockwell Software Systems.

Orbit Semiconductor to reconsider Eilat plant

US company Orbit Semiconductor has decided to renew its request to the Ministry of Industry and Trade's Investment Center to set up an electronic component plant in Eilat.

Earlier this year, Orbit's management decided to cancel plans for the \$230m. facility after the Investment Center determined that the financial benefits the factory would yield did not justify the investment aid package Orbit requested.

Meridor slams PM, Frenkel

Says shekel-band decision caused serious economic damage

By DAVID HARRIS

By revealing to the media their dispute with the Treasury over the exchange-rate mechanism, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel caused serious economic damage, outgoing Finance Minister Dan Meridor said yesterday in his final appearance before the Knesset Finance Committee.

The publication of the proposal to widen the so-called diagonal band led to an immediate demand for shekels, claimed Meridor.

Indeed, announcing on Wednesday a 1.2 percent interest rate cut and the reduction of the lower slope limit from 6% to 4%, Frenkel said the measures had to be taken immediately because of the increased demand, following the media reports.

The Bank of Israel was not prepared yesterday to say how much foreign currency it had purchased this week, but Treasury estimates put the figure at well above \$700 million.

Speaking on Channel 1 yesterday, Frenkel said the decision to reduce interest rates was in no way political.

"It is forbidden for me in my domain to think what the political implications are of one decision or another," said Frenkel. "If I do, then I ask how much of an interest rate [cut] is it worth to keep this minister or to bring in another finance minister. That is not my playing field."

Later in the day Meridor quipped to the Knesset Finance Committee that he did not realize he was worth 1.2%.

Meridor gave MKs a broad overview of the economy during the government's first year in office and also warned his suc-



Outgoing Finance Minister Dan Meridor (left) and director-general Shmuel Slavin drink a toast at a meeting of senior Treasury staff members yesterday.

cessor of the difficulties that lie ahead, including settling the budget and the ongoing budgetary deficit, privatization, wage settlements and above all else the country's monetary policy.

"The Bank of Israel and its governor believe differently, which is their right, but with all due respect he is also the government's [economic] adviser and the responsibility is upon the government," said

Meridor. "It is not legitimate, in my eyes, in such a sensitive issue as the diagonal strip for him to come to me and say I want to widen it. When I say I am opposed, that should be the end of the matter."

"If the debate is carried out in public through journalists, and the leaks did come from two buildings not too far from each other [a reference to the Prime Minister's Office and Bank of Israel] to the

effect that the decision would be to widen the band, causing \$500m. to be sold in one day, this is not right on the part of a central bank at all."

Frenkel, meanwhile, explained yesterday the order of events during the discussion between himself, Meridor and Netanyahu, that led in part to Meridor's resignation.

Meridor and Frenkel were close to reaching a compromise and at

that point entered Netanyahu's room. The prime minister asked Frenkel if he could live with the existing exchange rate mechanism but accept the other agreed changes in the budgetary and liberalization spheres. Frenkel replied that, as the government's economic adviser, he firmly recommended the expansion of the diagonal band, but as the governor of the Bank of Israel he could only abide by and implement government policy.

"Prime minister, finance minister, if you decide not to change the exchange-rate band, I can live with that, but you must be aware of one thing: There will be a cost to continuing with the existing method," said the governor.

At that point, Frenkel and Meridor left Netanyahu's room thinking they had reached agreement that there would be no change in the mechanism.

Some three minutes later, Netanyahu called them both back in and asked Frenkel once again about the implications of the various options open to the government. Then he turned to Meridor and asked why he opposed a compromise solution. From that point on, according to Frenkel, the issue was opened once again, eventually leading to the cabinet debate and Meridor's resignation.

When asked if it was fair that Meridor did not know that the central bank's key lending rate was to be reduced 1.2% the following day, after his resignation, Frenkel replied that Meridor knew there would be an impending monetary announcement. However, Frenkel added, even he, as governor, did not know what the announcement would be until he had held discussions on Wednesday morning with senior central bank executives.

New shekel mechanism to increase arbitrage

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN
and DAVID HARRIS

The change in the Bank of Israel's exchange-rate band mechanism is likely to lead to an increase in arbitrage deals, Hebrew University professor of public finance Eitan Sheshinski said yesterday.

Until now, the so-called diagonal

mechanism has allowed the shekel to appreciate or depreciate against the basket of currencies (US dollar, Japanese yen, German mark, British pound, and French franc) by 7 percent in either direction, before central bank intervention. The central diagonal line between the bands, set at zero, is a reflection of the difference between Israel's inflation target

and inflationary estimates among its major trading partners.

This week the Bank of Israel announced two key changes: while the slope of the upper band will remain at 6%, the lower band will rise at only 4%; this leads to second change - that the shekel will be able to freely float up to 15% in either direction. The 4% change to the slope is already in force, and the 15% limit will be reached in a year.

This moderation of the lower band's slope will lead to increased arbitrage possibilities, according

to Sheshinski, meaning that traders will buy dollars abroad in order to sell them here and make shekel deposits, thus taking advantage of the Bank of Israel's still relatively high interest rates.

Money has been flowing into the country because of the high interest rate returns. If the lower slope remains at 4% and the gap increases between the diagonal and the lower band, there is an attraction for added capital inflow.

"I am therefore not sure that the 1.2% interest rate cut is suffi-

cient," said Sheshinski. Furthermore, the current shekel exchange rate means Israeli exporters cannot successfully compete abroad, and with imports relatively inexpensive, it is likely that the balance of payments problem will remain.

"If the influx of capital continues, the bank will have to take further steps to stem it," added Sheshinski, who pointed out the central bank has purchased \$6.5 billion this year to keep the shekel above the lower limit of the diagonal bands.

IEC issues criteria for private Negev power station

By DAVID HARRIS

The first tender for the large-scale private generation of electricity is for a 370 megawatt recycling power station in the Negev, the Israel Electric Corporation announced yesterday.

The total investment is expected to reach \$300 million, according to the National Infrastructure Ministry.

Until now, only four private companies have been awarded generating contracts, which between them will only generate 65 megawatts.

The Negev plant is the first large step on the path to fulfilling the new Electricity Law, which requires that 10 percent of all electricity be produced by the private sector, as an initial step to opening the sector to competition.

The law grants IEC a 10-year license, and the company says it is determined to fulfill all its requirements so that it receives an extension beyond 2006.

The new station will adjoin IEC's existing plant at Ramat Hovav. It will take the heat from the gas by-product in two or three turbines and use it to create additional electricity. This means the station can produce up to 50 percent more power without using additional fuel.

The main fuel for the station will be natural gas, but fuel oil will be used as an alternative source.

The station will have to contain the latest technologies, but those which have a proven track record. The successful bidder will be asked to show its financial worth and be expected to cover at least 15 percent of the installation and construction costs from its own capital.

The new station will begin production in 2002, with a 20-year contract. The electricity will be sold to IEC or any other customer, dependent on the terms of the license.

The tender, which will be published internationally, has already received a great deal of interest,

according to the National Infrastructure Ministry.

Criteria for further power stations in the private sector will be drawn up by the ministry. A 1995 government decision calls for a total 900 megawatts to be produced in the private sector.

The first four firms to have been offered licenses will operate seven small plants. The companies, all domestic, are BNL International Trade Holdings, Gan Shmuel Energy (based in the kibbutz of the same name), Ofer Ltd., and Mega Dan Timna. They will run two generators in Kibbutz Shmona, and one each at Gan Shmuel, the Lavi industrial area near the Golan junction, Daliat al-Carmel, Kafr Maghar, and Timna.

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German mark	1.9584	1.9980	1.82	2.02	1.9733
Pound sterling	5.5570	5.6467	5.48	5.73	5.6130
French franc	0.5800	0.5894	0.57	0.59	0.5854
Japanese yen (100)	2.3917	2.4040	2.34	2.39	2.3782
Dutch florin	1.7386	1.7657	1.70	1.80	1.7533
Swiss franc	2.0420	2.0604	2.00	2.10	2.0546
Swedish krona	0.4385	0.4466	0.43	0.48	0.4422
Norwegian krone	0.4874	0.4950	0.45	0.49	0.4717
Denish krone	0.5141	0.5224	0.50	0.53	0.5187
Finnish mark	0.8541	0.8647	0.84	0.88	0.8599
Canadian dollar	2.4311	2.4704	2.38	2.51	2.4554
Australian dollar	2.5328	2.5737	2.48	2.61	2.5800
S. African rand	0.7496	0.7577	0.68	0.77	0.7572
Belgian franc (10)	0.9485	0.9538	0.93	0.98	0.9672
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7819	2.8268	2.73	2.87	2.8071
Italian lira (1000)	1.9984	2.0307	1.96	2.06	2.0183
Jordanian dinar	4.7736	4.8506	4.71	5.03	4.8721
Egyptian pound	0.9800	1.0500	0.96	1.06	1.0770
ECU	3.8278	3.8896	—	—	3.8659
Irish punt	5.1079	5.1903	5.02	5.27	5.1555
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3200	2.3576	2.28	2.40	2.3410

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

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REHAVIA - LUXURIOUS, MUST sell. Built 1990, 5, large + 2.5 baths, 188 sq.m., 3 balconies, private central air/heat, store room, elevator, parking. SHIRAN EXCLUSIVE through ALEX LOSKY REALTY. Tel. 02-623-5595, fax: 02-623-2419.

REHAVIA, 4 ROOMS, beautiful, air conditioning, jacuzzi, optional to rent. Tel. 02-586-2480.

REHAVIA, RACHBAH ST. 2 rooms, quiet, view, nice balcony. Exclusive to AMBASSADOR. Tel. 02-561-8101.

SAN SIMON (NEAR plant nursery), 3.5 with garden, renovated, air conditioning, \$160,000. SHIRAN EXCLUSIVE through ANGLO - SAXON. Tel. 02-625-1161.

SHIMONI, 4, LUXURY + balcony + large storage. Private underground parking. Tel. 02-771-3492.

TALBIEH, (NEAR LAROMME HO- TEL), excellent value, 4 spacious, 1st floor, elevator, storage room, balcony, parking. Asking \$480,000. Exclusive to ALEX LOSKY REAL ESTATE. 19 King David St. Tel. 02-623-5595, fax: 02-623-2419.

TALBIEH, 3 + DINETTE, open balcony, high floor, view, T.A.C. Tel. 02-583-1764.

TALBIEH, 3.5, TOP floor, bright, carpeted, move-in condition, \$290,000. Tel. 02-623-2990.

TALBIEH, 4, LARGE, modern, balcon- ies, lift, storage, parking. T.A.C. Tel. 02-583-1764.

TALBIEH, ARAB STYLE, 5 rooms, 2 balconies, 3rd floor, elevator, special AMBASSADOR. Tel. 02-561-8101.

TALBIEH, GREAT BUY, holiday apart- ment, 2.5, spacious, 1st floor, quiet, balcony, good exposures, asking \$220,000. Exclusive to ALEX LOSKY REAL ESTATE. 19 King David St. Tel. 02-623-5595, fax: 02-623-2419.

TALBIEH, PRESTIGIOUS LEAFY street, 6, needs renovation. Attractive price. Sole agent. CORINNE DAVAR. Tel. 02-673-3385.

TALBIEH, SUPERB LOCATION, styl- ized building, magnificently renovated, private heating. Key at AMBASSADOR. Tel. 02-561-8101.

TWO-FAMILY HOUSE, CENTER of Jerusalem, pent cottage, 140 sq.m., view. Tel. 02-622-2009, 02-567-0171.

SHAI AGNON, SPACIOUS, 4, (near Hehalpaleh). Quiet, access to garden, 2 storerooms, parking. Tel. 02-561-0320.

BAKA, QUIET AND green, stylish house, garden + building rights. LILY LEVIT. Tel. 02-663-9338, 788

BEAUTIFUL 270 SQ. M., villa in Kfar Glizo on 1/2 dunam plot. Tel. 02-673-4048(NS).

BET HAKEREM, DUPLEX, 5 rooms, beautiful, sunny, high floor, great parking, large balcony, views. Givat Oranin - 5 rooms, views, store rooms, parking. Shara Chesed/Rehavia - building plot, quiet location, 250 sq.m. Tel. Dafna 02-581-1222.

BREATH-taking view, MUSARRA, 3.5, elevator must be seen. Alex Losky Real Estate 19, King David St. Tel. 02-623-5595

CAPITAL, 02-679-4911, GERMAN COLONY, small Temple house, 6, quiet lane, secluded inner courtyard.

CAPITAL, 02-679-4911, CLOSE TO THEATER, 5, beautifully renovated, Shabbat elevator, storage room, parking.

CAPITAL 02-679-4911, OLD KATAMON, spectacular two story Arab house, 400 sq. m., unusual opportunity.

CAPITAL 02-679-4911, OLD KATAMON, town house, 6, spacious, underground parking, storage room, huge garden.

CENTER, NEAR GREAT Synagogue, 4, 3rd floor, 3 balconies, 3 bathrooms, \$380,000, for serious.

REHAVIA ELEGANCE
Below Market Price
built 1990, elevator, 188 sq.m., 5 large + 2.5 baths + balconies
Exclusive to Shiran by Alex Losky RE
Tel. 02-623-5595, Fax 02-623-2419
e-mail: losky2netmedia.net.il

EFRAI, HOUSE, 6 + studio, needs renovating, vacant from July 98, \$385,000. Tel. 02-993-2395, 850-421041.

EFRAI: NEW SEMI-ATTACHED spacious house, Dekal, 7 gardens, view, cul-de-sac. Exclusive to Efrat Properties. Tel. 02-968-3547.

FOR RELIGIOUS, BET VEGAN, 3.4 rooms + balcony and/or garden. MISHA'S. Tel. 02-625-4141.

FRENCH HILL, 4 renovated + dinette + separate work room, jacuzzi, central heating, must see! Tel. 02-581-1784.

GERMAN COLONY, LARGE, unique 2.5 or 4. Basement, garden, immediate (no commissions). DIVIROLI-SIANI. Tel. 02-581-2424.

GIL HAZAHAV HOME, in Wolfson (Rehavia), 2, well-arranged, lovely, immediate. \$180,000. KING DAVID DWELLINGS. Tel. 02-642-6363.

GIVAT ZEEV, 5, big closed patio, large kitchen, huge garden, privacy. Tel. 02-585-1225 (NS).

GREAT INVESTMENT! NEAR Uni- versity, 3, 1st floor, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, \$175,000. Ramat Eshkol, 4, renovated, \$240,000. ANGLO SAXON. Tel. 02-625-1161.

GREEK COLONY, 2 room private dwelling on quiet street for residence or office. Asking \$195,000. Alex Losky Real Estate, 19 King David St. Tel. 02-623-5595.

GUSH ETZION, VILLA for religious fam- ily, special design, 240 sq.m. + parking, large garden, panoramic view. Tel. 02-992-2685.

HAPALMACH, 3, 3 bathrooms + 4th toilet, 4 balconies, 2 solar heaters, high ceilings, entire floor, closets in all 6 bedrooms, 2 air conditioners, 2 entrances, can be divided into 2 units. Tel. 02-581-7423, 788

HAR NOF, 5 + dining room, Terrace, garden. Designer kitchen. Pearl Skolnik Realty. Tel. 02-586-5552.

HAR NOF VILLA, large comfortable family home, 4 floors (perhaps rent). Tel. 02-651-2598(NS).

NEW - KEREN HAYESOD, 2 room spacious apartments, well lit + view, occupancy in 3 months. Exclusive to SHIRAN through ISRAEL AMERICA HOUSES LTD. Tel. 02-583-8333.

OLD KATAMON, 4 + garden, quiet, possible building rights. \$255,000. SHIRAN EXCLUSIVE through REVADIM. Tel. 02-673-1362.

OLD KATAMON, REHAVIA, PENT- house, 5.5, southern terrace + private elevator and store room. BEN ZVI. Tel. 02-583-0066, 02-583-1684.

RAMAT ESHKOL, LARGE villa, 2 en- trances, can be divided into 2 units. AM-GAR. Tel. 02-581-6533.

RAMOT 06, NEW villa, 7 rooms, breathtaking view. Tel. 02-699-5086, 050-285-058.

RAMOT 06, VILLA, 420 SQ.M. - built, 175,000. Tel. 02-586-0006.

RAMOT ALPHE, COTTAGE, 6 rooms + separate unit, \$550,000. Tel. 02-586-0006.

REHAVIA (KEREN KAYEMET), 3.5, 1st floor, spacious, quiet, high ceilings, \$278,000. SHIRAN EXCLUSIVE through ANGLO - SAXON. Tel. 02-625-1161.

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RAMOT 06, VILLA, 420 SQ.M. - built, 175,000. Tel. 02-586-0006.

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HERZOG-4, 3RD floor, view, good directions, light, flexible price. Tel. 02-678-5588, 050-688943.

ITALIAN COLONY, 2 bedrooms, 2nd floor, underground parking, elevator. Tel. 02-652-1535, 052-635-697.

JEWISH QUARTER, SELECTION of fine homes, \$250,000 - \$1,500,000. M. REALTY. Tel. 02-628-5621, 07-627-0011.

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NAHLAOT, PENTHOUSE, 5 rooms, bright, balconies, special, YON HANIT PROPERTIES. Tel. 050-288-115, 02-624-6576.

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NO AGENT, KEREN Hayesod, near center, 3, 2nd floor, balconies, immediate. Tel. 02-625-9301, 02-581-6154 week days.

NON-AGENT, 1) HAR NOF, ground floor, 4, \$

Friday, June 20, 1997 The Jerusalem Post

DWELLINGS

Dan Region

SALES

SHOAM, 2 FAMILY-HOME, 360 sq.m. built, option for further ext. view, 2500/100, Tel. 05-220-0738.

DWELLINGS

Southern Coast

RENTALS

ASHKELON, FURNISHED, DETACHED villa, 4 rooms, near sea, garage, Tel. 07-979-5017.

ASHKELON, VILLA, 6 rooms, by sea, air conditioning. For serious, Tel. 02-581-8103, 07-671-1441.

DWELLINGS

Sharon Area

HOLIDAY RENTALS

HERZLIYA-BY-THE-SEA, 6 ROOM house. Available whole or part of mid July to September. Tel. 09-558-2556.

HOLIDAY APARTMENT FOR rent, Netanya. Sleeps 6. Sea front (Danker). From August 15 - Rosh Hashana. Call Tel. 02-976-2738.

RENTALS

Caesarea Villa for Rent. Elderly couple, shared for treatment, July 15 - Sept. 1, would like their magnificent villa, superbly equipped with excellent facilities, on a restricted terrace, at a fraction of its proper value, to immaculate couple. Beautiful garden and pool, double electronic garage, recently built in October 9, adjoining the golf course. Particulars from Anita or Barbara. 06-628-0178. "Unrivaled luxury without a single star".

HERZLIYA PITUACH AND Kfar Shmaryahu, choice villa for rent. SHAASHUA (Maldan). Tel. 02-557-0576. near

HERZLIYA PITUACH (NOF-YAM), new villa, 7 rooms, swimming pool, 800sqm plot, 09-558-8204.

PRIVATE HOUSE, 12 rooms + parking, long term. Tel. 09-557-2266, 050-352-061.

TOURISTS! HERZLIYA PITUACH, fully furnished, villas and apartments, short term. Tel. 03-548-8820.

SALES/RENTALS

CAESAREA, 2 FAMILY HOME, beautiful, modern, 730 sq.m. plot, 250 sq.m. built, 5040,000. Tel. 06-628-3514, 050-728-878.

HERZLIYA PITUACH, 4 rooms, 100 sq.m. built, 1000,000. Tel. 09-558-8204.

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RENTALS

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RENTALS

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SALES/RENTALS

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SALES

VACATION SUITE, CLUB Hotel Eilat, week 33, (August 17-23). Tel. 02-535-5231 (NS).

DWELLINGS

Mod'In Region

SALES

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MOD'IN, NATIONAL RELIGIOUS, 4 rooms, including an suite master bedroom. Must sell. Tel. 050-259-915.

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General

INVESTMENT

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BUSINESS OFFERS

Jerusalem

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NEW BEAUTIFUL OFFICES in Sha'ar Ha'ir Building, entrance to Jerusalem, 8th floor, 136 sq. m + 4 storerooms. Fully air conditioned. Tel. 03-623-2322.

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BATHROOM ENAMELING! (ZE'EV'S bathtub), renewal, repair, enameling, and bathtub coverings without removing. Guaranteed. Tel. 177-022-6101.

SERVICES

Jerusalem

CONTRACTORS

AVIV SHMUKLER, CONTRACTOR - tiling and ceramic, general renovations. Jewish labor. Tel. 02-533-3482, 052-610127 (NS).

SITUATIONS VACANT

General

GENERAL

OPTICA HALPERIN SEEKS optometrists, opticians, salespersons, good conditions. Tel. 03-579-1517, fax 03-578-5027.

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SEEKING ENGLISH TEACHERS And pre-primary teachers from Sept. 7.

Afternoons Part Time ALL AREAS 08-947-5782

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WANTED A HIGHLY experienced financial manager, the Europe system of book-keeping, English, Russian required. Work and stay with family in Moscow. Biography to be sent: Post Box 18150, Post code: 61181, Tel Aviv.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Jerusalem

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RAFFLES HAIRDRESSING REQUIRE part-time, English/Hebrew speaking receptionist. Tel. 02-537-5937.

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SLEEP - IN, FOR FAMILY in Old City, references necessary. Tel. 02-827-4017.

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WANTED URGENTLY FULL-TIME Metapelet. Light housework in Givat Yehuda. Tel. 02-534-2204.

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SALES PERSONNEL

Rain delays Atherton's captaincy record

LONDON (AP) — Persistent rain forced Michael Atherton to wait one more day before becoming England's longest-serving Test captain.

The first day's play in the Second Ashes Test was called off without a ball bowled yesterday when umpires David Shepherd and Srinivas Venkataraghavan made their third and final inspection before announcing the inevitable decision.

Until Australian captain Mark Taylor and Atherton start the match officially with the toss, the England skipper will remain level with Peter May's record of 41 Tests at the helm.

The first day of the Lord's Test is always a sell-out, but by the late afternoon fans began leaving the ground.

The only entertainment for the die-hard supporters was on the giant Lord's television screen which showed highlights

of classic Ashes encounters, including England's emphatic nine-wicket first Test win at Edgbaston two weeks ago.

According to chief executive Tim Lamb, the England and Wales Cricket Board will refund £600,000 to the disappointed fans.

The first four days of the much-awaited Test are sold out, attracting a revenue of £2.65 million, making it the most subscribed Test match in the history of the Marylebone Cricket Club.

There was some hope of play in the early afternoon when dark clouds made way for bright sunshine and the huge covers protecting the hallowed Lord's turf were pulled off.

"We were hopeful two hours ago, but when we came out to inspect it was very dark and rain was in the air, conditions

not conducive to starting a Test match," said Shepherd.

It is the first time a full day's play has been lost at Lord's since the Sunday's play was lost in 1991 against the West Indies. The last time play was lost for an entire day in a Test between Australia and England at Lord's was in 1964.

It leaves just four days of play, but that was all England needed at Edgbaston to take its 1-0 lead in the six-match series.

Australia has won its last three Tests here while England haven't won at Lord's since 1934.

Lord's has hosted 30 Ashes Tests, with Australia winning 12 and England just five — four of them last century.

The weather forecast for the next three days is much the same as it was for yesterday — rain.

Security stepped up at Wimbledon

LONDON (Reuters) — Security at this year's Grand Slam Tennis tournament at Wimbledon is being stepped up, the All-England Club confirmed yesterday, with officials and police eager to avoid a repeat of April's Grand National chaos.

"Security has been increased and the Grand National was taken into account. We liaise very closely with police on these matters," an All-England spokesman said.

A bomb scare halted April's Grand National steeplechase. The race was postponed for two days.

The spokesman confirmed that two car parks would be moved to create a "sterile" area of around 200 meters along one of the main roads, but he stressed that the changes would not hugely inconvenience spectators.

"We're not sending spectators off to the middle of nowhere," he said, estimating that people using the car parks, previously situated on the golf course, would have to walk a further 400 meters.

Visitors using public transport or other car parks would not be affected.

All bags will be searched when spectators enter the grounds and all vehicles will be checked as part of the increased security measures. In addition, closed circuit television cameras with recording equipment will scan the course.

"The safety of all our visitors... is of paramount importance," Christopher Gorringer, chief executive of the club said in a statement.

The championships, which start on Monday, are expected to attract around 400,000 visitors over the two weeks.

Heather Chait adds: Rain yesterday postponed several qualifying matches including two Israelis. Oren Muntz was scheduled to play 1987 Wimbledon winner Pat Cash, and Eyal Elichai was slated to go up against Jan Hendrick Davids from the Netherlands.

Three Israelis have already been sent packing. Eyal Ran, Raviv Weidenfeld and Noam Behr all lost in their qualifying matches.

Leonard omitted from Lions' side

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) — Prop Jason Leonard was a surprise omission from the British Lions side named yesterday to face South Africa in the opening Test of the three-match series in Cape Town.

Leonard will be on the bench for tomorrow's match at Newlands with Ireland's tighthead prop Paul Wallace and Scotland loosehead Scott Smith partnering Irish hooker Keith Wood in the Test front row.

Lions manager Fran Cotton faced difficult choices with so many players in good form. The only member of the 35-man squad not considered for selection was Irish number eight Eric Miller who has the flu.

"It's more than just a bug — he is still in bed now and is likely to be for a couple more days," Cotton said.

Six Englishmen have been selected for tomorrow's starting line-up, while four players — tour captain Martin Johnson, Jeremy Guscott, Scott Gibbs and Iwan Evans — were Test members of the 1993 Lions side which toured New Zealand.

Scottish center Allan Tait, run very close for selection by England's John Bentley, will play England on the left wing while Welshman Scott Gibbs is set to resume his successful Lions partnership with the creative Jeremy Guscott in the center.

British Lions: Neil Jenkins; Iwan Evans, Jeremy Guscott, Scott Gibbs, Allan Tait, Gregor Townsend, Matt Dawson; Tim Rodber, Richard Hill, Lawrence Dallaglio, Jeremy Davidson, Paul Martin Johnson (captain), Paul Wallace, Keith Wood, Tom Smith. Substitutes: John Bentley, Mike Catt, Austin Healey, Rob Wainwright, Jason Leonard, Barry Williams.



SWIPE — Tigers' Brian Hunter steals second as Marlins' Luis Castillo takes late throw. Detroit won 6-2.

Yankees triumph in 'Subway Series'

NEW YORK (AP) — The Yankees won New York's first Subway Series in 40 years, beating the Mets 3-2 in the decisive third game Wednesday on a 10th-inning RBI single by Tino Martinez.

For six innings, it appeared the cheering, chanting sellout crowd of 56,278 at Yankee Stadium was witnessing one of the most memorable afternoons in the history of New York baseball.

The Yankees' David Cone dominated his former team, and didn't allow a hit until John Olerud's leadoff double in the seventh.

But the Mets came back from a 2-0 deficit with single runs in the seventh and eighth, tying the game when Cone balked with pinch-runner Steve Blier on third.

Solo homers by Chad Curtis and Cecil Fielder off Rick Reed had given the Yankees their lead.

Mike Stanton (3-0) followed Cone and completed the three-hitter for the Yankees.

Expos 1, Orioles 0 Carlos Perez pitched an eight-inning and Sherman Oando broke up Jimmy Key's perfect game with a sixth-inning homer as visiting Montreal won for the 11th time in 12 games.

Key (11-2) retired the first 16 batters before Oando, a former Oriole who entered the game hitting .086, hit a 2-2 pitch into the left-field seats beyond the outstretched glove of a leaping B.J. Surhoff.

That was enough offense for Perez (8-4), who recorded his third shutout in his last four starts. The left-hander has allowed just two earned runs this month in 34½ innings.

Tigers 6, Marlins 2 Omar Olivares pitched a four-hitter and Joe Hall, making his first major league start in nearly two years, drove in three runs as host Detroit became the last team with an interleague victory.

Detroit had lost five straight to NL teams, its longest losing streak of the season.

Florida starter Al Leiter (5-5) gave up seven hits and six runs in three innings.

Bobby Bonilla hit a two-run

homer for Florida.

Dodgers 7, Angels 5 Billy Ashley, Raul Mondesi and Todd Zeile each hit two-run homers to lead Los Angeles to a two-game home sweep.

The two teams met again in interleague play July 2-3 at Anaheim Stadium.

The game marked the first major league matchup of pitchers from Japan, with Anaheim reliever Shigetoshi Hasegawa coming in the sixth inning while Dodger starter Hideo Nomo was still in the game.

Neither, however, figured in the decision.

Rockies 10, Rangers 9 John Weteland gave up a three-run homer to Andres Galarraga and a bases-loaded walk to Walt Weiss in the bottom of the ninth inning, handing Colorado a home win.

Weteland, who allowed the Rockies to score three runs in the ninth inning on Tuesday night, came in to protect a 9-6 lead.

Giants 4, Mariners 2 Mark Gardner allowed three hits in 7½ innings, and Stan Javier hit his third interleague homer as San Francisco completed a two-game home sweep.

Gardner (8-2), who retired the first 13 batters before allowing Jay Buhner's 17th homer in the fifth, struck out four and walked two.

The second hit he allowed was Russ Davis' 10th homer leading off the eighth.

Javier hit a solo homer in the sixth as the Giants won their fourth straight. He added a sacrifice fly in the eighth.

Javier has three homers this season, all since interleague play began last Thursday. Javier, who spent eight seasons in the AL, hit a two-run pinch-hit homer in the Giants' 4-3 win over Seattle on Tuesday night.

Reds 5, Indians 2 In Cleveland, they may not have the best record in Ohio, but the Cincinnati Reds are state champs.

Journeyman Mike Remlinger shut out Cleveland on two hits through six innings and gave bragging rights to the Reds, who won the finale of the first regular-season all-Ohio series.

The historic three-game series

drew 128,727 — three straight sell-outs at Jacobs Field, extending the park's sellout streak to 163 games. The Reds took two of three from Cleveland, leaving both teams 3-3 in interleague play.

Blue Jays 5, Braves 3 Carlos Delgado hit a three-run homer through the fog and as host Toronto avoided a three-game sweep.

There was a 14-minute fog delay in the fourth inning. The game was interrupted while the retractable roof at SkyDome was closing.

John Smoltz (6-6), who won at Toronto in Game 5 of the 1992 World Series, was tagged for five runs in seven innings. The 1996 NL Cy Young winner gave up six hits and struck out seven.

White Sox 3, Cubs 0 Thanks to Wilson Alvarez, the White Sox rule the Windy City.

Alvarez pitched a four-hitter for his first shutout in more than three years as the White Sox defeated the Cubs to win the first regular-season crosstown series in Chicago history.

The Cubs won the opener but the White Sox rebounded to take the next two as the teams met in games other than exhibitions for the first time since the 1906 World Series.

Wednesday's game drew 44,204 fans, the second consecutive sell-out crowd and second-largest in new Comerica Park history to Tuesday's 44,249.

Brewers 8, Cardinals 4 Jeremy Burnitz hit a bases-loaded triple and host Milwaukee won a three-game sweep.

The loss left St. Louis with a 1-5 record in interleague play.

Red Sox 4, Phillies 2 Shane Mack, reviving a once stagnant season, hit a tiebreaking, two-run single in the seventh inning that led Boston to a home win.

It was Boston's fifth victory in six games against NL opponents. Philadelphia dropped to 1-5 after the first round of interleague games.

The three-game series drew 80,019, close to Boston's average at Fenway Park.

Athletics 11, Padres 9 Jose Canseco and Mark

McGwire put on a show with tape-measure home runs, but it was rookie Jason McDonald's first big league homer that gave Oakland a two-game road sweep.

The win gave AL teams a 48-36 edge over NL clubs in this first round of interleague play. The AL-NL competition resumes June 30.

McDonald's two-run homer off Padres relief ace Trevor Hoffman came with two outs in the eighth and put the Athletics ahead 10-8.

Cansco hit consecutive homers measuring 399 and 439 feet, and McGwire hit one 434 feet, his 26th of the season. All three came off rookie Will Cunnane.

American League

East Division W L Pct GB
Baltimore 46 21 .685 0
New York 39 30 .565 8
Toronto 32 34 .485 13½
Boston 31 38 .449 16
Detroit 30 37 .448 16

Central Division W L Pct GB
Cleveland 35 31 .530 0
Kansas City 33 34 .493 2½
Milwaukee 33 34 .493 2½
Chicago 32 35 .477 4
Minnesota 32 37 .464 4½

West Division W L Pct GB
Seattle 38 31 .551 0
Texas 36 31 .537 1
Anaheim 34 34 .500 3½
Oakland 30 41 .423 9

National League

East Division W L Pct GB
Atlanta 44 26 .629 0
Florida 41 28 .594 2½
Montreal 40 29 .580 3
New York 37 32 .538 6½
Philadelphia 22 46 .324 21

Central Division W L Pct GB
Houston 34 37 .479 0
Pittsburgh 33 38 .468 1
St. Louis 31 38 .449 2
Cincinnati 29 40 .420 4
Chicago 28 42 .400 5½

West Division W L Pct GB
San Francisco 40 29 .580 0
Colorado 37 33 .528 3½
Los Angeles 34 35 .493 6
San Diego 29 40 .420 11

Wednesday's interleague results: NY Yankees 3, NY Mets 2 (10); Detroit 6, Florida 2; Minnesota 8, Pittsburgh 2; Montreal 1, Baltimore 0; Colorado 10, Texas 9; San Francisco 4, Seattle 2; Boston 4, Philadelphia 2; Cincinnati 5, Cleveland 2; Toronto 5, Atlanta 3; Milwaukee 8, St. Louis 4; Chicago White Sox 3, Chicago Cubs 0; Kansas City 6, Houston 3; Los Angeles 7, Anaheim 5; Oakland 11, San Diego 9.

SPORTS

in brief

New giant for Maccabi TA hoopsters

(Ilim) — US basketball player Richard Griffith, 22, is set to sign with Maccabi Tel Aviv. The 2.11-meter center has played the last two years with Turkish club Tofas.

Celeric wins Ascot

LONDON (Reuters) — Celeric (with Pat Eddery up), an 11-2 pick, won the Ascot Gold Cup yesterday, a group one race for four-year-olds and upwards, run over 2½ miles. Placing three-quarters of a length behind, was Classic Cliche, at 6-1 (Frankie Dettori) and in third, a further length back, was 25-1 shot Election Day with Michael Kinane up. Persian Punch was the 9-2 favorite in the 13-horse race.

The winner, owned by Christopher Spence and trained by David Morley, won £113,556.

Thieves steal Melbourne Cup

MELBOURNE (Reuters) — Police are searching for thieves who galloped off with the 1973 trophy from the Melbourne Cup, Australia's most famous horse race, from a racing club display cabinet.

The distinctive three-handled trophy, valued at \$19,000, was discovered missing yesterday from the Victoria Racing Club's committee room, but may have been stolen at any time in the past few weeks, said spokesman Terry Clifton.

"The committee room is only used on race days, and because the trophy is in a cabinet with a lot of other trophies... you could walk past it without noticing it was gone," he said.

Police have appealed for help with the trophy's recovery. The 1973 Melbourne Cup, won by Gala Supreme, was donated to the club by the horse's late owner. First run in 1861, the race is one of the world's richest, with a new trophy every year.

Bulls in McDonald's line-up

PARIS (Reuters) — NBA champions Chicago Bulls have completed the six-team line-up for the McDonald's world club championship in Paris in October.

The organizers said NBA commissioner David Stern had confirmed on Wednesday that the Bulls would take part in the October 16-18 championship at the Palais Omnisports in Bercy. The other participants are European champions Olympiakos of Greece, Spain's Barcelona, Benetton Treviso of Italy, French champions PSG Racing and Argentina's Atenas de Cordoba.

Sydney Harbor clean-up ordered

SYDNEY (Reuters) — Highly toxic waste will be removed from the waters of Sydney Harbor near the site of the 2000 Olympic Games in a clean-up costing \$15.7 million, the New South Wales state government said yesterday.

The operation involves the removal of dioxin contaminants from sediment in Homebush Bay, which is adjacent to the main Olympic complex.

Swimming in that part of Sydney Harbor is prohibited because of the heavy pollution. The Homebush area of western Sydney, now a massive Olympic building site, was in the past a site for heavy industry. Environmentalists Greenpeace said earlier this month that Homebush Bay was, lamentably, "the new dioxin capital of the world."

Catholic magazine warns of 'Ronalditis'

ROME (Reuters) — Italy's best-selling weekly magazine warned readers yesterday that Ronaldo, expected to be signed by Inter, was a symbol of spendthrift soccer and the country's reluctance to confront its problems.

The Roman Catholic *Famiglia Cristiana*, sold in parish churches across the country and found in most doctors' surgeries and dentists' waiting rooms, devoted its cover to an action shot of the Brazilian striker and warned of "Ronalditis" — which it called an "infantile disease of footballing neoliberalism."

"He, Ronaldo, maybe does not know it, young and inexperienced as he is in matters Italian, but in his way he is a symbol," the magazine added in an editorial.

"Ronaldo, who looks set to leave Barcelona for Inter after endless conjecture and protracted on-off negotiations, has obsessed Italians for months.

If, as expected he does join Inter next season, he will become the world's most expensive player at an estimated \$55 million.

Delta Center extortionist nabbed

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The FBI on Wednesday arrested a man accused of threatening to blow up the Delta Center this week unless paid an undisclosed sum by Jazz owner Larry Miller.

Richard L. Christiansen, 43 was arrested by the bureau's Violent Crimes Task Force, Woods Cross Police Department and investigators from the US Postal Service, said Thomas Kubie, special agent in charge of the FBI's Salt Lake City Division.

Christiansen is charged with two counts of making threatening communications through the mail, each punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

In letters mailed to two of Miller's auto dealerships, the Jazz owner was instructed to deliver money to a semi-secluded spot in a field near Sky Park Airport in Woods Cross, according to the FBI.

A package was placed at the field, and Christiansen was arrested following a short vehicle pursuit when he retrieved the box, said FBI special agent Dale Weiss.

"He was caught red-handed," she said.



Ronaldo (Reuters)

Oscar Mayer bows out

MADISON WI (AP) — Sexy songs have cost the Super Bowl halftime show its sponsor.

Oscar Mayer Foods Corp. is pulling its sponsorship from the broadcast, because last January's program was not "family-oriented."

The broadcast during the Green Bay Packers' victory over the New England Patriots included James Brown singing "Get Up (I Feel Like Being a) Sex Machine" and rock group ZZ Top playing songs such as "Legs." Oscar Mayer was the halftime show's sole sponsor the past two years.

Lack of knowledge bedevils Cape Town 2004 Olympic bid

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Chris Ball doesn't fear politics or lack of development or crime will derail his bid committee's efforts to get Cape Town chosen host of the 2004 Olympics.

He fears a lack of knowledge.

Most people outside of South Africa, including many of the 109 voting members of the International Olympic Committee, know little about the coastal city or the country, Ball told journalists yesterday.

"People get off the plane and say, 'Well, we didn't know. We didn't understand,'" he said of visiting IOC members when they see the modern amenities and infrastructure in Africa.

Ball, a former banker who is chief executive officer of the Cape Town bid committee, needs more than half the IOC voters to obtain some understanding before the decision gets made on September 5.

Four other cities — Rome, Stockholm, Athens and Buenos Aires — joined Cape

Town as finalists in March.

Ball knows Cape Town has the sentimental edge, offering the first serious bid for Africa to host an Olympics with the bonus of giving the IOC a chance to back President Nelson Mandela and the transition from apartheid to democracy.

But that may not be enough. The European candidates all have strong credentials and Cape Town is considered a long shot to win.

"It's certainly going to go into the second, third and fourth round," Ball said of the September vote. "Nobody is brave enough now to predict who the winner will be."

So his committee is trying to get more than 60 IOC members to visit Cape Town by September. Like all bid finalists, it has glossy brochures and press kits to tout its strengths.

A special magazine on the Cape Town bid features a full-page portrait of Mandela on the cover. The press kit emphasizes the

compact nature of the Olympic venues in Cape Town, with most events and facilities in walking distance of one another.

It fails to mention that most of the stadiums and other facilities still must be built by a nation struggling to meet development needs of millions of blacks neglected during apartheid.

But Ball, who speaks with silky smoothness, turns that into a positive, noting that development and construction means jobs, training and an expanded tax base.

"The key is in all your proposals... that you're planning something that's good for the city," he said. "Cape Town is a special environment. It's not every city in the world... It needs a plan."

He shrugged off questions about political squabbling that marred the early days of the Cape Town bid and reappeared last week in newspaper stories about Sports Minister Steve Tshwete criticizing the racial makeup of the bid committee.

The articles distorted the situation, Ball

said, and the government and bid committee worked closely together to present Cape Town as the candidate for South Africa all of Africa.

Everyone wanted the same goal — an expected boost in development, gross domestic product and job creation, he said.

"If you have a good run politically... then the effect will be massive," Ball said.

Ball emphasized aspects of the Cape Town bid unmatched by the other candidates. The torch relay, for example, would run through some 30 African countries to give the world a different view of the continent from the one provided on the nightly news, he said.

Obviously up on his homework, Ball cited the goals of modern Olympics founder Baron Pierre de Coubertin as another reason for choosing Cape Town. Coubertin wanted the Olympics to promote the human spirit and extend human development, two strengths of the Cape Town bid, he said.

Maxim Levy, UTJ clash over appointment

By LIAT COLLINS

While the coalition is reeling under the fallout of Dan Meridor's resignation, the conversion bill issue, Yisrael Ba'aliya's demands that its preferred candidate be appointed ambassador to Russia, and the lingering Bar-On Affair, a new crisis is in the offing. Geshet's Maxim Levy has resurrected an old dispute which could cause a showdown with United Torah Judaism.

Levy has announced he intends to submit his candidacy to a position on the committee which elects religious court judges. The position became vacant with the recent death of MK Avraham Stern (National Religious Party).

Last November, the elections for the Knesset's two appointees to the panel seriously rocked the coalition. Under the coalition agreement, one of the two committee members chosen by the Knesset must be from United Torah Judaism, but its candidate, Moshe Gafni, failed to get elected after several more coalition MKs, including Levy, put themselves forward for the post. Stern was elected as the coalition's appointment along with Labor's Uzi

Baram. Most coalition MKs had assumed that Gafni would be the only coalition candidate in the new elections following Stern's death, but with Levy's insistence on running, other MKs — particularly from NRP and Shas — are likely to announce that they will also try again for the post.

"Geshet didn't make any commitments, and I see myself as a suitable candidate," said Levy yesterday. "If Gafni wants to run, he can. I haven't asked for coalition support. I'm not scared of this or that coalition crisis. The [religious] factions have a number of positions which have been promised them. I don't think Agudat Yisrael [a part of United Torah Judaism] or anybody else should have a monopoly. The Knesset chooses individual candidates. It's not something that can be turned into a coalition demand."

But Gafni was obviously upset. "The fact is that even today, I am the candidate of the coalition," he said. "The question is: What kind of a coalition is this? They're turning the coalition into a jungle. It's a lack of an elementary political culture."

Haim Shapiro contributed to this report.

Gafni: We'll abide by convert deal

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The religious parties will abide by the compromise agreement between the Conservative and Reform movements and the government on the conversion bill, even though they do not agree to it in principle.

This was made clear yesterday by MK Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism), who said that his party would wait until June 30, to see if the petition regarding the conversion of adopted infants by Conservative rabbis is brought before the High Court. If it is not, Gafni said, his party would agree to delay action on the bill "for some weeks."

According to the agreement, the Reform and Conservative are to suspend their petitions to the High Court, while a joint committee, including a representative each of the Conservative and Reform movements and five members from the coalition will reach a compromise agreement by September 15.

Gafni said his party does not agree to the participation of Conservative and Reform rabbis in the committee. "The coalition should come to a decision by itself, as with any other law," he said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that he believes the



Marlene Post, world president of Hadassah, yesterday presents Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with a statement calling on him to work speedily for a broad consensus on the issue of religious pluralism.

issue is on its way to being settled. Speaking at the ceremony establishing an International Center on Jewish Identity at Bar-Ilan University, he said the compromise talks would soon get under way and he believes the results will be positive.

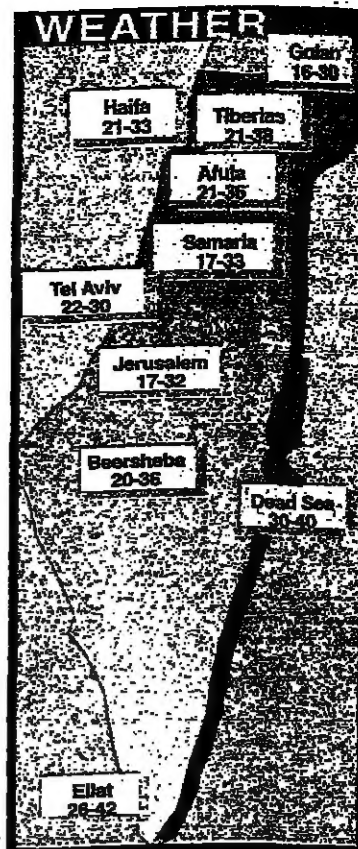
"I don't want this year to be remembered as the year the Jewish people was torn into pieces," he said.

Netanyahu also said he sees the Reform and Conservative as an integral part of the Jewish people. There is no difference between Jew and Jew, and the Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform have valid arguments, he said.

Netanyahu also spoke to the leadership of the World Zionist Organization in Jerusalem, where Hadassah president Marlene Post presented him with a statement

expressing the organization's "distress and dismay over the shocking disintegration of the unity of the Jewish people that we are witnessing in Israel."

She expressed concern that the conversion bill or similar legislation might still be passed and the compromise agreement would only be "yet another Band-Aid which will merely hold back the poison for a few more weeks or months."



Forecast: Unusually hot temperatures. Shabbat: Temperatures will continue to rise

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	MOON
Amsterdam	10	50	18	clear
Berlin	12	54	22	clear
Buenos Aires	11	52	16	cloudy
Cairo	21	70	30	clear
Chicago	12	54	27	clear
Copenhagen	09	46	17	clear
Frankfurt	09	48	17	clear
Geneva	12	54	24	rain
Helsinki	09	46	19	clear
Hong Kong	25	77	26	cloudy
Jakarta	02	26	14	clear
London	17	63	24	cloudy
Los Angeles	13	59	16	clear
Madrid	14	57	24	cloudy
Moscow	13	55	21	cloudy
Munich	12	54	16	clear
New York	17	63	21	cloudy
Paris	14	57	19	cloudy
Rome	17	63	29	cloudy
Stockholm	09	46	19	clear
Sydney	09	46	19	clear
Tokyo	20	68	28	cloudy
Toronto	12	55	21	cloudy
Vancouver	14	57	25	cloudy
Zurich	10	50	22	cloudy

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HAIFA - CARMEL: 04-4375338 IN CHENOKH: 04-4400910
ELAT: 07-4370077 IN BEER SHEVA: 07-4400910
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Conservative Movement condemns lesbian marriage ceremony

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Israel's Conservative movement yesterday condemned a marriage between two women performed by a Reform rabbi on Wednesday night, saying that it had crossed the "red line" in terms of Halacha (Jewish law) and it was a mistake to carry out such a marriage at this time.

The ceremony was performed in Tel Aviv by Rabbi David Ariel-Joel, rabbi of Jerusalem's Har-El Congregation. During the ceremony, held under a talit (prayer shawl), the two women exchanged rings

and each broke a glass.

Rabbi Einat Ramon, spokeswoman of the Conservative movement, said the movement opposes such rituals. "We see no way, according to Halacha, to make homosexual marriage a halachic norm, even though we recognized the rights of the gay community for civil rights," Ramon said, adding that it would also be a mistake to make such a marriage a norm, especially at a time when heterosexual marriage had to be supported.

Although Ramon did not mention the talks which were still continuing yesterday between the coalition and Reform and Conservative movements over a compromise agreement regarding conversions carried out by the two movements in Israel, she did say that she thought the timing of the marriage ceremony was "irresponsible."

MK Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) said yesterday the wedding between two women is just additional proof that the Reform movement is only interested in destroying Judaism.

"The Reform are not really interested in conversion or marriage or in helping people. They are only interested in overturning Judaism," Gafni said. The Reform, he said, had rejected the Torah, which was the basis of Jewish survival during all the centuries of persecution.

The Council of Progressive Rabbis, the central body of Reform rabbis, yesterday denied the ceremony had been a marriage, but rather a "bonding ceremony" intended to make the relationship public. Rabbi Yoram Mazor, secretary of the CPR, said that Ariel-Joel had allowed a talit to be used as a canopy, contrary to the decision of the CPR, but there had been no traditional marriage contract, no wedding blessings, and the rings had been exchanged without halachic formulas.

Mazor said the CPR had been discussing homosexual ceremonies during the past two years, and while its rabbis had expressed themselves in favor of the basic need of every human being for love, warmth, and companionship, it sees the sanctity of the union of marriage between a man and a woman as the ideal. The CPR sees no possibility of conducting homosexual marriage ceremonies according to the law of Moses and Israel, Mazor said.

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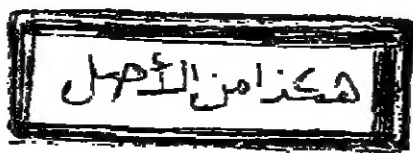
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